

Your Name

Your Address

Your Email

Date

Elected Officials Name and title

Address

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

A recent poll of Americans found that among the issues our country faces, the growing number of community members experiencing and facing homelessness is of the greatest concern to them. I consider homelessness the biggest issue our city, state and county faces each day. It eats away at our communities especially hospitals, our schools, businesses, and it erodes our families.

When families, with children, do not have affordable housing, on average, they spend 13% less on food, 40% less on healthcare, and 23% less on transportation. (*Joint Center for Housing Studies, 2019, p. 32*). I want to encourage you to advocate for a variety of housing stock that meets the needs and budgets of our community members in need. Zoning and policies that continue to prioritize single family homes are hurting our communities and especially the efforts of nonprofits trying to build accessible housing. There are many municipalities nationwide that are implementing changes to their housing plans, and I learned about these from a nonprofit collaborative called the Common Cause Partner Campaign of Snohomish County.

The Common Cause Partner Campaign's website is [www.startswithhousing.org](http://www.startswithhousing.org) and it is filled with research, data, and best practices related to increasing housing stock in a variety of ways. I encourage you to look at the site and to see if there are solutions, we can adopt locally to serve our community members in need who are experiencing homelessness. Your leadership on eradicating homelessness is critical. It continues to grow, and we must respond with greater depth and creativity to get our neighbors back into a stable environment. It all starts with housing!

Please let me know how I can help you lead the way on this very important issue

Thank you!

Your signature

Your name printed.