

March 8, 2019

Re: Affordable Housing Priorities HB 1923, SB 5812 / HB 1797

Legislators,

**We are writing to you urge you to take action on land use reforms to address our housing affordability crisis.** Please pass HB 1923 and SB 5812/HB 1797.

It is an unfortunate truth that our zoning and land use laws are embedded in a legacy of racial injustice and serve to perpetuate the interests of the wealthy. This is a highly complex issue, to be sure, but that complexity can coexist with those truths.

**To move forward we need your action to update land use laws** to promote the building of more homes near the opportunities we all want access to: employment, education, healthcare, relaxation and entertainment.

We cannot delay merely because this will change our communities—our communities are living entities just like the people who make them up and will always change; it is our job to ensure that they change by allowing more of us to live, work, and thrive here.

**Inaction will continue to constrain opportunity while many struggle with rising rents, unattainable down-payments, life-shortening commutes, economy-slowng gridlock and planet-killing emissions.**

Housing is a matter of basic safety, justice, and economic opportunity. It is time we update our laws to ensure that we are building for this generation of need and the next. **Please pass HB 1923 and SB 5812/HB 1797 in order to build more homes for the people who need them.**

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine, King County Executive  
Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive  
Jessica Bateman, Olympia City Councilmember  
Jim Cooper, Olympia City Councilmember  
Teresa Mosqueda, Seattle City Councilmember  
Lorena Gonzalez, Seattle City Councilmember  
Mike O'Brien, Seattle City Councilmember  
Rob Johnson, Seattle City Councilmember  
Sally Bagshaw, Seattle City Councilmember  
Kate Burke, Spokane City Councilmember  
Ryan Mello, Tacoma City Councilmember  
Larry Brown, Auburn City Councilmember  
Jimmy Matta, Mayor of Burien  
Krystal Marx, Burien City Councilmember  
Pedro Olguin, Burien City Councilmember  
Jennifer Gregerson, Mayor of Mukilteo  
Leanne Guier, Mayor of Pacific  
Clint Bryson, Montesano City Councilmember  
Matthew Hepner, East Wenatchee City Councilmember

Ryan Calkins, Port of Seattle

Futurewise  
Climate Solutions  
Washington Environmental Council  
Washington Conservation Voters

Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium  
The Housing Development Consortium of Seattle/King County  
Washington Low Income Housing Alliance  
Blue Mountain Action Council  
Sightline Institute  
Moms Rising  
Statewide Poverty Action  
HopeSource  
Fuse Washington

International Association of Machinists, 751  
SEIU 775  
SEIU 1199NW  
SEIU 925  
SEIU 49  
Teamsters 117  
Teamsters Joint Council  
UFCW 21  
Washington Education Association  
Washington Public Employees Association, UFCW 365  
Washington State Building Trades  
Washington State Council of Firefighters  
Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO  
Washington State Nurses Association