

JAY INSLEE
Governor



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January 16, 2017

M.A. Leonard, Chair
Affordable Housing Advisory Board
Department of Commerce
1011 Plum Street SE
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Chair Leonard:

Thank you for the recommendations from the Affordable Housing Advisory Board (AHAB) on strategies to address homelessness and the affordable housing crisis in our state. I have incorporated several of the AHAB's requests in my proposed 2017-2019 budget.

In order to make meaningful progress on this issue, we require a more thorough analysis of the root causes affecting the lack of affordable housing in our state. Within the next 60 days, I am asking you to convene a work group within the Affordable Housing Advisory Board (AHAB) along with necessary subject matters experts from outside the organization to examine our existing systems that contribute to our housing stock. Please examine how the zoning and planning, permitting, development and financing, and construction processes can be improved to open increased opportunities for additional housing. Define where barriers exist and provide recommendations on how to remove these barriers. If you have other areas of consideration that will provide further insight and recommendations on how to increase the affordable housing stock in the state, please include that in the workgroup's efforts. An initial letter of findings and recommendation should be submitted to the Department of Commerce and my office by June 1, 2017.

Recognizing this work will require more regular meetings for AHAB and external partners in order to produce findings and recommendations, consult with the Department of Commerce should it be necessary for additional support.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Jay Inslee
Governor

