WHEREAS, our vision is a Washington State where everyone has the opportunity to live in a safe, healthy, affordable home in a thriving community; and

WHEREAS, on any given night, more than 18,000 people are homeless in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction reported that during the 2012 – 13 school year, 30,609 students in Washington schools were identified as homeless; and

WHEREAS, more than 165,000 extremely low-income households in Washington are spending more than half their income on housing costs alone, making it difficult to afford basic necessities like food and medicine and leaving those households very vulnerable to falling into homelessness; and

WHEREAS, there is a statewide deficit of 247,202 units that are affordable and available to households earning 30% or below of Median Family Income; and

WHEREAS, in order to afford the Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Washington State of $970, a person would need to either earn $18.65 an hour or work 80 hours per week, 52 weeks per year if earning the state minimum wage; and

WHEREAS, ending homelessness requires a significant shift in the priorities of government, which will only happen if the public demands it; and

WHEREAS, increasing access to safe, healthy, affordable housing is a key strategy for improving educational outcomes for students; and

WHEREAS, increasing access to safe, healthy, affordable housing is a key strategy for improving health outcomes throughout Washington State; and
WHEREAS, creating and preserving affordable homes near transit is a key strategy for ensuring that Washington’s transit investments and growth are both equitable for communities and are successful in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and protecting the environment; and

WHEREAS, state investments in affordable housing are Washington’s best tool for ensuring access to safe, healthy, and affordable housing, while additionally creating jobs and generating new state and local tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, all-cuts budgets have taken an extreme toll on families and communities by reducing and eliminating vital safety net programs; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF KING, THAT;

Our organization encourages the Governor and the Legislature to raise revenue so that it is possible to make needed investments in affordable housing and to rebuild investments in human services and housing options that have been lost since the beginning of the Great Recession while still meeting the state’s other obligations.


THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF KING, WASHINGTON

[Signatures]

DOUGLAS J. BARNES, Chair
Board of Commissioners

STEPHEN NORMAN
Secretary