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**Subject:** Affordable Housing  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 22, 2021 9:47:11 AM

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Hello,

I'm emailing regarding my support of the affordable housing project. I believe my husband and I would be considered the target demographic for this type of project.

I work in education (I was previously a teacher in the Seattle school district) and now provide in-home, private behavior health services. I know multiple people who started working here in education and ended up either leaving the island or leaving the field because of the cost of living made their job unsustainable. Most of the staff we work with do not live on the island, making our turnover rate for staff high and creating inconsistency in services. I've had conversations with every family I work with regarding the lack of services here (speech therapy, behavioral health, ABA, occupational therapy, feeding therapy, etc). From what I see, this is a direct reflection of the lack of space and affordability for people working both in the public and private sectors.

My husband works as a bartender and has worked in several local restaurants and bars. A majority of coworkers live off the island and if they live here it's because they rent, live with family, or were gifted a large amount of money to be able to afford a downpayment for a home. With the rental market almost non-existent and houses priced above \$600k and going for well over asking, it makes it almost impossible to live here. On the flip side, people frequently complain about the lack of restaurant choices and quality of service on the island. If we can't attract employees who can easily work here, you can't increase quality of service or variety of options.

My husband and I have rented the same home for almost 10 years now. We have an annual household combined income of about \$85k and are still unable to purchase a home here. We have a 4 year old and a dog so our options if we had to move would be limited. We are invested in the community since our son goes to school here and we both work for local businesses. But I worry that when our landlord decides to sell our house, which will be soon, we won't be able to stay.

Bainbridge can either be a place that is working on building diversity, both in terms of race and income- or it can be a place that continues to create a selective population, white and wealthy- but it can't have both.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I'd be happy to talk more or answer additional questions.

-Erin Greager