

Please pass and fully fund HB 1406/Robinson

To solve Washington's homelessness crisis, we must invest in more affordable homes. The lowest income households in Washington simply don't have enough housing options, leaving them extremely vulnerable to eviction and homelessness:

With Washington State ranking 44th worst in the nation for our lack of affordable homes for our lowest income residents, HB 1406 is desperately needed in order to help solve our affordable housing crisis.

There are only 29 available and affordable homes for every 100 households earning just 30% of the area median income (AMI), and there are only 52 for every 100 households earning just 50% of the AMI.

HB 1406 will allow cities and counties to retain a portion of the sales tax to keep it locally for affordable homes. How it works:

- The revenue stream lasts for 20 years, allowing local jurisdictions to bond against it if they choose. They can only use bonded dollars for capital investments in affordable homes, but they can use unbonded dollars for other local affordable housing needs including rental assistance or operations & maintenance for permanent supportive housing.
- The maximum taxing authority of .02% can be split between a city and county, or either can utilize the maximum authority when the other doesn't act. Cities can utilize the full authority if they take action no later than one year after the enactment of the bill on one of the following:
 - The affordable housing levy authorized under RCW 84.52.105 or under RCW 84.55.050 if used solely for affordable housing;
 - The sales and use tax for housing and related services authorized under RCW 82.14.530;
 - The sales tax for chemical dependency and mental health treatment services or therapeutic courts authorized under RCW 82.14.460;

Signed by:

Association of Washington Cities
Association of Washington Housing Authorities
City of Olympia
Community Action Center of Benton and Franklin Counties
Community Action Center of Whitman County
Community Action of Skagit County
Community Action Partnership - Asotin County
Faith Action Network

Hopelink
Kitsap Community Resources
Lower Columbia CAP
MDC (Metropolitan Development Council)
Multi-Service Center (MSC)
OIC of Washington
Okanogan County Community Action Council
OlyCAP
Partners for Rural Washington
SEIU Healthcare 1199NW
Solid Ground
Washington Gorge Action Programs
Washington Low Income Housing Alliance
Washington State Association of Counties
Washington State Housing Finance Commission