



JEFFERSON COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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Jefferson County
Board of County Commissioners
P.O. Box 1220
Port Townsend, Washington 98368

October 4, 2006

RE: 2006 Housing Needs Assessment

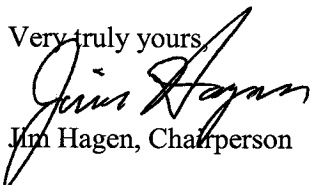
Dear Honorable Members of the Board of County Commissioners:


We endorse the 2006 Housing Needs Assessment and Action Plan and are especially pleased to have a document that serves as a community resource, providing us a snapshot of our community. The Jefferson County Planning Commission appreciates the work of the Housing Advisory Group and Beckwith Consulting, which for the past eight months have explored and researched the housing needs of Jefferson County. Under the stewardship of Beckwith Consulting, the Housing Advisory Group has fully vetted the options available to us and painted a picture of the local community in which we live.

While it is not surprising that the gap between incomes and housing prices is becoming wider, it is refreshing to see a document that fully explores the options available to us, quantifies the numbers of persons in need and develops an action plan to address some of the issues. Furthermore, we fully endorse the continuation of the Housing Needs Assessments Advisory Group with support from both the City and County staff to further develop and refine action items, which can be used to combat homelessness and housing affordability. We recognize that a need remains unfulfilled for many county residents.

We encourage all to do their part to decrease the burden on the county's most vulnerable residents, those earning less than the median income and paying more than 35% of their income for housing.

Very truly yours,


Jim Hagen, Chairperson


Bud Schindler, Housing Advisory Committee

JEFFERSON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION