North Star
All Skagit Thriving

Tackling our Communities' Housing Crisis

North Star Leadership Team Joint Statement

We believe everyone in Skagit County should have a safe and stable place to live. Right now, that is not a reality for many who live here and others who want to be part of our community. Skyrocketing prices, high rents, and low vacancies create instability and stress for our seniors and working families. They prevent employers from finding and keeping the workers they need and drive more homelessness.

As North Star leaders and local electeds, we believe a regional, shared planning approach to update our respective Comprehensive Plans in accordance with State GMA requirements can help ensure residents at all income levels have more access and choice about their housing.

We invite all planning commissions and city councils to join us in incorporating this suite of regulatory tools as they update their Comprehensive Plans:

- Allow mixed-use development outright in commercially zoned, transit-served corridors. Relax or eliminate density limits in such areas.
- Adopt "By Right" permitting in residential zones by eliminating discretionary review processes for submitted projects that meet zoning code.
- Reduce parking requirements for affordable housing projects and housing located in transit accessible areas.
- Reduce fees for affordable housing, especially for smaller housing types and centrally located housing with good access to transit, services, and employment.

We know each of our jurisdictions acting independently cannot generate the types and scale of housing needed. By acting together, with common tools and a shared commitment, we can create more housing supply, choices, and opportunities for our neighbors throughout Skagit Valley.

Peter Browning
Commissioner, Skagit County

Lisa Janicki
Commissioner, Skagit County

Ron Wesen
Commissioner, Skagit County

Bill Aslett
Mayor, City of Burlington

Peter Donovan
Mayor, City of Mount Vernon

Julia Johnson
Mayor, City of Sedro-Woolley

Matt Miller
Mayor, City of Anacortes