



Skagit County Board of Commissioners

Ron Wesen, First District
Peter Browning, Second District
Lisa Janicki, Third District

March 27, 2024

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
3206 Jackson Federal Building
915 2nd Avenue
Seattle, WA 98174

RE: Community Action of Skagit County Kulshan View Project

Senator Cantwell,

The Skagit Board of County Commissioners writes to support Community Action of Skagit County's request for \$1,000,000 in FY2025 Congressional Directed Spending funds for the Kulshan View housing project. Skagit County consistently has one of the lowest rental housing availability rates of any county in Washington state. The development of attainable housing for people who live and work in our community is a high priority for Skagit County.

The project would create approximately 48 apartment units, largely two and three bedrooms, over two phases, with 24 units created in each phase. We appreciate Community Action's focus on providing housing to at-risk students and families, in partnership with Mount Vernon School District. We know housing stability for young students is intricately tied to their educational and later career success and can be instrumental in breaking the cycle of poverty. Community Action also intends to house low-income student teachers seeking to complete their teaching certificate through Skagit Valley College. This will have a generational impact on the teacher's life, while supporting our local school district's goal of developing a workforce that more closely reflects the demographics of their student populations. Ensuring instructor diversity for a community will help drive academic success for the student body.

We are in full support of Community Action's application for FY25 Congressional Directed Spending funds. We recognize the continual need for new affordable housing in Skagit County and we are excited for the opportunity to partner with the Mount Vernon School District to support their students and teachers.

Sincerely,

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Peter Browning, Chair


Lisa Janicki, Commissioner


Ron Wesen, Commissioner