



SOUND CITIES ASSOCIATION

38 Cities. A Million People. One Voice.

March 11, 2021

The Honorable Andy Billig, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable John Braun, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Christine Rolfes, Senate Ways & Means Chair
The Honorable Lynda Wilson, Senate Ways & Means Ranking Member
The Honorable Patty Kuderer, Senate Housing & Local Government Chair
The Honorable Phil Fortunato, Senate Housing & Local Government Ranking Member

Dear Majority Leader Billig, Minority Leader Braun, Chairs Rolfes and Kuderer, and Ranking Members Wilson and Fortunato:

We, the undersigned mayors, are reaching out with respect to House Bill 1220, a bill with very admirable intentions but with provisions that include a far-reaching preemption of local zoning authority and unfunded mandates.

We agree that here in King County and around the state, cities should be planning under the Growth Management Act (GMA) in a way that assures a place for those in need – whether that is emergency housing, emergency shelters, or permanent supportive housing. All of us have a role to play in addressing the affordable housing and homelessness crisis that is gripping our county, our region, and our state – and all of us must do our part to combat the crisis.

Unfortunately, HB 1220 goes far beyond requiring that cities appropriately plan to address the crisis and would broadly preempt local zoning authority. We are concerned that the impacts of the bill in its current form may go beyond the intent of the bill sponsors and would prohibit cities from doing the thoughtful planning that is needed to ensure success for our unique communities with differing needs. We are also concerned that the significant changes that have been made to the bill since originally introduced have not been thoughtfully discussed with local jurisdictions and other stakeholders that would be impacted by the legislation.

We ask that legislators work with our cities on the content of HB 1220 and consider amending to address our concerns to ensure that the intent of the bill is successful in addressing the affordable housing and homelessness crisis in an effective way. Additionally, we ask that any new obligations imposed on cities be supported with adequate state funding to accomplish those mandates.

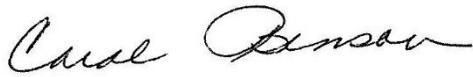
Sincerely,



Mayor Nancy Backus, City of Auburn



Mayor Lynne Robinson, City of Bellevue



Mayor Carol Benson, City of Black Diamond



Mayor Marianne Klaas, City of Clyde Hill



Mayor Jeff Wagner, City of Covington



Mayor Matt Pina, City of Des Moines



Mayor Amy Ockerlander, City of Duvall



Mayor Jan Molinaro, City of Enumclaw



Mayor Jim Ferrell, City of Federal Way



Mayor Mary Lou Pauly, City of Issaquah



Mayor Dana Ralph, City of Kent



Mayor Jeff Johnson, City of Lake Forest Park



Mayor Sean Kelly, City of Maple Valley



Mayor Benson Wong, City of Mercer Island



Mayor Linda Newing, City of Newcastle



Mayor Sue-Ann Hohimer, City of Normandy Park



Mayor Leanne Guier, City of Pacific



Mayor Angela Birney, City of Redmond



Mayor Armondo Pavone, City of Renton



Mayor Karen Moran, City of Sammamish



Mayor Erin Sitterley, City of SeaTac



Mayor Matt Larson, City of Snoqualmie



Mayor Allan Ekberg, City of Tukwila



Mayor Gary Harris, City of Woodinville