



UP FOR GROWTH

- action -

April 25, 2019

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

On behalf of Up for Growth Action's Washington State Project, I write to express our strong **SUPPORT** for the inclusion of \$175 million to the State Housing Trust Fund within the State Capital Budget. The lack of available and affordable housing has reached a crisis stage and is a challenge to the economic well-being of households and individuals across the state, which these important funds will help to alleviate.

With a strong Washington state presence, Up for Growth Action is a national 501(c)(4) public-interest advocacy organization that represents a vibrant, diverse and growing coalition of stakeholders that urge and advocate for policies that improve the quality of life for working families and individuals and create communities that are accessible and affordable for all by promoting more housing close to jobs, efficient transportation, and in high opportunity neighborhoods.

The Housing Trust Fund was formed to develop and preserve affordable housing for low-income and vulnerable Washingtonians. This critical funding would add much-needed housing capacity for the very low-income households most in need of stable housing.

Housing Trust Fund dollars support a wide range of projects serving a diverse array of low-income populations. Projects can serve people with incomes up to 80 percent of Area Median Income, but the majority of projects funded to date serve households with special needs or incomes below 30 percent of Area Median Income, including homeless families, seniors, farmworkers, and people with developmental disabilities. Special needs projects coordinate with state and local service providers, to ensure clients receive appropriate housing and services.

Up for Growth Action strongly **SUPPORTS** the appropriation of \$175 million to the Housing Trust Fund. This is a critical funding source for deeply affordable housing production and preservation. The Housing Trust Fund is a proven and essential resource, needed to improve the quality of life for very low-income families and individuals, by providing flexible funding for housing in high-opportunity and job-rich communities across the State of Washington.

On behalf of our members, we respectfully request your inclusion of these important funds at the \$175 million level in the Capital Budget as part of a comprehensive package of policies and resources to address Washington state's housing crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Kingsella', written in a cursive style.

Mike Kingsella
Executive Director
Up for Growth Action