



March 31, 2023

City of Seattle  
Hon. Bruce Harrell, Mayor of Seattle  
Hon. Debra Juarez, City Council President  
Members of the Seattle City Council

**Re: Comments on the Proposed Seattle Housing Levy**

Dear Mayor Harrell, Council President Juarez, and Members of the Seattle City Council:

We are board members of the Third Door Coalition, an unlikely alliance of business leaders, supportive housing providers, researchers, and homeless advocates working together to address chronic homelessness in King County. We write to express our strong support for the Mayor's proposed \$970 million housing levy and our firm commitment to working with the Mayor, Council, and a broad coalition of business, non-profit, and government leaders to advocate for its passage.

As you know, numerous studies and reports, including a well-publicized 2020 McKinsey report, confirm the correlation between the lack of affordable housing and our region's homelessness crisis. Meanwhile, as the Office of Housing notes, the Seattle Housing Levy has been the "cornerstone of funding for affordable housing in Seattle, creating and preserving more than 14,000 affordable rental homes and 900+ homeownership opportunities throughout the city" since 1981.

The Mayor's ambitious \$970 million proposal would build on this strong foundation to make an unprecedented investment in affordable housing production, preservation, and operation. That investment can't come soon enough: the Puget Sound Regional Council indicates that 46,000 new homes are needed to address the current supply backlog and 810,000 are needed by 2050 to accommodate population growth. This Levy won't solve the whole problem, but it is a major start.

We particularly applaud the Mayor's inclusion of funds for Operating, Maintenance, and Services (OMS) and investments in workforce funding which will enable providers to support residents and staff through investments in wages for their highly skilled but historically underpaid workforce.

We appreciate your consideration of this and related issues and note your sustained advocacy for Permanent Supportive Housing.

Sincerely,

Third Door Coalition Members