

Email Your Elected Official

We need your voice! Use this template to email your elected officials about the importance of prioritizing the regional housing targets. The below language is just a starting point - we encourage you to visit your jurisdiction's dashboard to customize your letter, and remember - you can find your elected official's contact information on the dashboard as well.

SUBJECT: Creating more opportunity starts with housing
[ELECTED OFFICIAL NAME]
[ELECTED ADDRESS LINE 1]
[ELECTED ADDRESS LINE 2]

Dear *[ELECTED OFFICIAL NAME]*,
My name is *[YOUR NAME]* and I am a resident of *[NEIGHBORHOOD]* in *[JURISDICTION]*. I love living in the Greater Washington region. Not only is it the center of decision making for our nation, but also home to tremendous job opportunities, and some of the nation's most impressive higher education institutions. Everyday thousands of individuals are making their way to our communities to take advantage of everything that our region has to offer. But when it comes to affordable housing options for my neighbors and I, it seems that the development can't keep up.

I understand that in September 2019, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's Board of Directors adopted a resolution which established collective housing targets for the region. Around the same time, the Urban Institute released a report which underscored the importance of government, business, nonprofit, and philanthropic leaders working collectively towards shared targets, committing to evidence-based actions to achieve a healthy housing market, and ensuring that the housing market supports economic prosperity for all of its residents. I commend you and your colleagues for championing these targets, which are so urgently needed in our jurisdictions.

From the barista that serves your favorite coffee to the teacher who educates our children, everyday hard-working people like you and I are in need of housing that is safe, affordable, and located near transit. Yet it seems that rent is only rising as the demand grows. I urge you to keep the housing targets as a priority for our jurisdiction by working with your colleagues to allocate the appropriate funding and strengthening the public policy necessary to meet our goals.

[JURISDICTION NAME] has a number of tools at its disposal as we work toward these targets, and with the help of resources like [the Housing Indicator Tool](#), we have the ability to learn from other communities and track our progress on producing and preserving housing. Our communities are only as strong as the people that live, work and play there – and we are counting on you. Thank you in advance for your commitment to this matter, and I look forward to how we will work together to create a more just and equitable region.

Sincerely,
[YOUR NAME]