



December 8, 2021

To Executive Dave Somers and members of the Snohomish County Council:

We, the undersigned, have concerns regarding the proposed councilmanic increase to the countywide sales and use tax for affordable housing. While we share the desire to address affordable housing issues in our county, the proposed process minimizes public input and will erode trust with our shared constituents.

A sales tax to produce affordable housing is counterintuitive and will only further burden residents and small businesses throughout Snohomish County. Sales tax is one of the most regressive forms of taxation, creating a disproportionate burden on low-income families who are already impacted by high inflation and on businesses struggling to recover from the economic consequences of the pandemic.

In addition to the merit of the policy proposal itself, we have significant concerns with the process being used to implement this tax increase. Historically, a proposal like this would need to go to the voters for their consideration. While the legislature allowed local governments to impose this sales tax increase using councilmanic authority, we feel that the appropriate and transparent course of action must involve a vote of the people.

We encourage the County Council to place this issue on the ballot and allow the voters of Snohomish County to determine whether this tax increase and proposed spending has merit.

Please do not impose this additional tax burden on Snohomish County residents without their input through a public process and vote.

Respectfully,

A blue ink signature of Scott Murphy, written in a cursive style.

Scott Murphy
Council member

A blue ink signature of Scott Bader, written in a cursive style.

Scott Bader
Council member

A blue ink signature of Jeff Moore, written in a cursive style.

Jeff Moore
Council member

Scott Murphy
Everett City Council



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