



**City of Seattle**

Seattle Renters' Commission

June 11, 2026

**Seattle Renters' Commission Letter Opposing Reductions to Mandatory Housing Affordability Program**

Dear Mayor Wilson and City Councilmembers,

The Seattle Renters' Commission opposes gutting the Mandatory Housing Affordability Program—a program that has proven its value by creating thousands of affordable units for Seattle renters. Caving to the demands of developers that hold our housing market hostage would mean sacrificing a program that delivers concrete results for vague half-promises of increased density with no timeline or deliverables.

The MHA program is not the reason that development has slowed, and reducing it will not meaningfully stimulate growth. MHA fees are a relatively limited cost, eclipsed by soaring interest rates, tariffs, and other expenses. Instead of working to address the actual barriers that are slowing development, developers are using the current conditions as leverage to get out of paying their fair share. Our City cannot continue to trade the well-being of the poor and working class people who live here to appease entities driven by profit maximization.

Eliminating funding does not eliminate need. Decreasing the MHA fee would decimate funding for affordable housing at a time when both renters and those providing the city's more affordable rental units are struggling to stay afloat.

While increased density helps to stabilize rent costs, the developers pushing for cutting MHA have made no promises as to how much housing they will build after they get their way, and the number of projects in the pipeline will not drive market rent down far enough that it will be affordable for low-income renters.

It is not worth sacrificing a program that creates housing for those who need it most to appease those who seek to maximize their profits and will tear down any barrier that impedes that goal.

Sincerely,  
The Seattle Renters' Commission