



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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June 2, 2021

Camas City Council  
c/o Sarah Fox, Senior Planner  
City of Camas  
616 NE Fourth Avenue  
Camas, Washington 98607

Sent Via Electronic Mail

RE: Draft Housing Action Plan

Dear council members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your proposed draft housing action plan (HAP). We appreciate your coordination with our agency as you work to fulfill the HB 1923 grant contract to develop this plan.

Camas has done a good job at completing all of the required items within the HB 1923 grant contract. The HAP if implemented as designed will help the city meet its housing needs by accommodating the future population demand with a greater diversity of housing options and greater affordability, while addressing displacement and preserving affordable housing. We especially like and applaud city's work on the following items:

- The stakeholder focus groups and interviews, which in combination with the survey and other outreach, will help the city plan to address the specific needs and desires of Camas that may not have been evident in the data.
- The buildable lands analysis review of Camas' building capacity will be very helpful in informing the actions that will need to take place from the HAP to accommodate growth within the community.
- The specificity of the actions recommended within the strategies will help the city quickly transition to taking actions that will increase housing capacity, diversify the housing options, and address housing affordability and displacement.
- The prioritization of actions as recommended by the Planning Commission is a best practice that we recommend all cities incorporate into their HAPs. A prioritized action list will help the city quickly take next steps in its upcoming work plan to address the city's housing needs.

As the city looks to adoption and implementation of this strong set of housing strategies, we have a few suggestions for strengthening your plan.

- We recommend the city include a table of actions associated with each strategy to compile the recommendations in one place. We recommend this table include additional information that will help the city to take the next steps to implement the actions, including level of effort or amount of resources needed to complete, agencies or partners involved, and/or considerations or action needed.
- We recommend the city make a plan for how to monitor the goals within the HAP. A monitoring plan would allow the city to measure its progress and evaluate which changes have been effective at meeting the goals, and which might need modifications to meet the intended purpose.

Additionally, the Washington State legislature has funded additional grants to increase residential building capacity in the next biennium. Please be on the lookout for future funding opportunities to implement actions with this HAP coming through Commerce in the late summer or early fall.

Congratulations to the staff for the great work the draft housing action plan represents. If you have any questions or need technical assistance, please feel free to contact me at [steve.roberge@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:steve.roberge@commerce.wa.gov) or (360) 764-0112. We extend our continued support to the City of Camas as you review this draft plan for adoption as intended direction for housing policy.

Sincerely,



Steve Roberge  
GMS Deputy Managing Director  
Growth Management Services

cc: Sarah Fox, Senior Planner, City of Camas  
Phil Bourquin, Community Development Director, City of Camas  
David Andersen, AICP, Managing Director, Growth Management Services  
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