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December 3, 2024

Sumner City Council
104 Maple Street
Sumner WA 98390

Dear Sumner City Council,

On behalf of the Master Builders Association of Pierce County (MBAPC) Legislative Strategy Committee, I am writing today to express our concern with Ordinance No. 2916, regarding Park Impact Fees.

Washington is in the midst of a housing affordability crisis and lowering development costs, especially for housing, should be prioritized over parks. However, Ordinance No. 2916 would do the opposite. While RCW 82.02.060, provides municipalities the ability to collect proportional park impact fees based on factors like square footage, number of bedrooms, or usage, it does not mandate the sharp fee increases in this proposal. The proposed changes would nearly double Park Impact Fees for families seeking larger homes, adding substantial costs across the board.

Additionally, these increases would disproportionately affect middle housing projects, which could see nearly \$1,000 added in park impact fees. These homes are often the first step for many residents aspiring to become homeowners and bear the brunt of these rising costs. According to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), with every \$1,000 increase in the cost of new home prices hundreds of people in the region are priced out of the market. Already, with over 83% of residents in Pierce County unable to afford a median priced home, these impact fee increases only push the dream of homeownership further away.

It is crucial to carefully consider the implications of Ordinance No. 2916 for future Sumner residents. Engaging with builders, like the members of the MBAPC, is essential to accurately assess the impact of this decision and ensure it does not exacerbate the housing affordability crisis. We look forward to working with you to help address housing affordability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Kaul".

Scott Kaul
Legislative Strategy Committee Chair
Master Builders Association of Pierce County