



**From:** [fgwilliamson@gmail.com](mailto:fgwilliamson@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Contact Council](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Input on Ord 21-098  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 2:09:12 PM

**RECEIVED AFTER  
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**CAUTION :** This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

I received the following from Megan Dunn after previously emailing the County Council. Today I see that Gov. Inslee plans to put \$800 million into addressing homelessness in WA state. What on earth does the Council think it's doing forcing a sales tax increase in this quick vote today after it only coming to light 2 weeks ago. Did the Council have no knowledge of Gov. Inslee's plans? If so, shame on you for ignoring it before the vote planned for today? This is a BIG rush job...!

Why does the Council majority seem bent on not allowing the people of the County to decide this sort of inflation-adding measure? And, why does the Council not wait to see the impact Gov. Inslee's plan can make for the state and Snohomish County before shoving this down our throats? Further, how much analysis has been done first to cut costs elsewhere in the County's budget, before again wastefully using OPM ("Other People's Money", namely ours)?

Frederic Williamson  
Mukilteo 98275

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**From:** Dunn, Megan <Megan.Dunn@co.snohomish.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 10, 2021 1:56 PM  
**To:** Dunn, Megan <Megan.Dunn@co.snohomish.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Input on Ord 21-098

Hello:

Thank you for reaching out regarding the recent proposal to fund emergency sheltering, supportive housing, and behavioral health services in our community. I appreciate that you took the time to write in.

After years of input from our cities and outreach to residents, last week council introduced [Ordinance 21-098](#) which allows Snohomish County to follow the lead of five other counties and seven other cities to enact a 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1% sales tax to address affordable housing and sheltering needs in our county. To put this in perspective, it would be \$0.01 (one cent) on a \$10 purchase, or \$1.00 on a \$1,000.00 purchase. **One-hundred percent of the revenue collected would go directly to fighting one of our county's most pressing crises: housing affordability, homelessness, and behavioral health services.** Taxpayers already pay a substantial amount to address the effects of homelessness in our communities through camp clean ups, law enforcement, and jail costs. The money generated will be allocated based on the [5-Year Plan](#) and help divert people towards housing and a more stable life. **The County has created a broad-based strategic approach to addressing the housing crisis, including buying a hotel, creating more affordable housing, and building a continuum of services to help those who are struggling with behavioral health or substance use disorder.** These services and housing options would be located throughout the County.

Repeated studies show that it costs a taxpayer *less* to house a person experiencing homelessness than it does to pay for that person to remain on the streets. Not only is the

passage of this Ordinance fiscally responsible, it's morally responsible. In 2020, there were 1,132 people living unsheltered in Snohomish County, according to the Point in Time Count. This is not merely a humanitarian challenge; It also constrains our economy and limits our ability to thrive.

Our current efforts addressing housing affordability and homelessness is clearly not adequate and the pandemic has only exacerbated the problem. Teachers, first responders, frontline workers, or other working-class families are finding it difficult to make ends meet because of the skyrocketing costs of housing. And all of us have passed by a person living in a tent, using bushes downtown as a bathroom, or a family sleeping in their car. It's time to take a bolder and proactive approach before it's too far out of hand. Local and national studies and polls have repeatedly echoed what I frequently hear from voters: It's past time to address housing and homelessness issues in our county. Our County does not have enough emergency sheltering options or shelter beds, supportive long-term housing, or services for our residents in need. A sustainable funding source would solve this problem.

This is the only tool we have at our disposal for sustained County funding to address the affordable housing crisis. We need to act now or the problem will do more damage to our economy, the environment, and the health of our community. The cumulative impacts of taxes is a matter that I'm sensitive to. Analysis shows that the working poor spend a greater percentage of their income on non-taxable items (e.g. food, rent, etc.) than those well off. The Working Families Tax Credit takes effect in 2023, families will be able to qualify for support to help offset some of the sales tax costs. The impacts to low-income families will be minimal and in the long-run will ultimately be offset by access to affordable housing. And all of us will benefit through alleviation of the impacts of homelessness on our communities.

Under HB 1590, only a vote of a county council or city council can authorize the tax, as long as it is used for affordable housing. Unlike approving a fire or school levy, a public vote would not enact this tax. The housing affordability crisis has been upon us for years, and there was extensive public involvement and debate through the County's [Housing Affordability Regional Taskforce process](#) and when the legislature passed HB 1590. Public input through these initiatives have shared loud and clear that voters have repeatedly identified housing affordability and homelessness as their top concern. This Ordinance is in direct response to voters who have asked for a more proactive response to solve this matter.

This Ordinance was introduced on December 1 and the standard two-week notice was given for the Public Hearing on December 15 at 10:30am and the issue will be discussed in a committee meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm. Your email has been added as public record, and if you would like to share any further comments, you're more than welcome to join the Public Hearing meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup>, or email the full council at [contact.council@snoco.org](mailto:contact.council@snoco.org). I understand how important this issue is, so please know that I took your comments into consideration, and I will continue to support taking action to address this crisis.

Sincerely,

**Megan Dunn** | *Vice Chair and Councilmember District 2*

O: (425) 388-3494 | [megan.dunn@snoco.org](mailto:megan.dunn@snoco.org)

*Pronouns: she/her/hers*

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**From:** [Sherri Larkin](#)  
**To:** [Contact Council](#); [Nehring, Nate](#)  
**Cc:** [Low, Sam](#); [gdlarkin@outlook.com](mailto:gdlarkin@outlook.com)  
**Subject:** Tax increase for affordable housing  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 2:29:10 PM

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Hello Nate,

I attempted to use the Zoom link for the meeting this morning and it did not work. Here is my comment on the matter:

It seems like a tax is always the answer for a problem today. This is true for our federal government, state government and local government. (I made comment at a Zoom meeting in October about the county's desire to raise property tax as an example.) Taxes can not be the "go to" solution for every problem. We as a people of the United States and our local region included, are generous people. However, the more you tax the less generous we can be. I suggest a radical idea, tax LESS! Taxing less will give the individual more money to spend in the community and to give. I am part of a local church. As a church we are BIG givers to the community. The more of the money we earn that comes home in our paycheck will allow for more giving. I believe that is how community problems like the need for affordable housing will be solved. There has to be more creative solutions to our county needs than "TAX MORE".

I was recently in the Tri-city area and my nephew works with the local high school learning carpentry skills as they partner with Habitat for Humanity. The classroom for him is a neighborhood where they are building homes. They will build 20 this year alone! These homes then sell for a very low price for those who qualify to purchase. They are nice, simple homes. Does Snohomish County currently have programs like this example for growing affordable housing?

I say "NO" to another tax increase. As a side note I think some say yes to a tax increase because it gives them the sense that they are compassionate and trying to help people in some way. This thought is misguided. Compassion is not just throwing more money at a problem. It's time to expand the tent pegs by including community and creative solutions.

Thank you,  
Sherri Larkin  
9804 Waverly Drive

**From:** [Janis Colvin](#)  
**To:** [Contact Council](#)  
**Subject:** Sales tax  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 2:43:43 PM

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No new sales tax! I'd like to know where all the money goes??? Property tax too???  
NO NEW SALES TAX

Sent from my iPhone

**RECEIVED AFTER  
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**From:** [Robert Moore](#)  
**To:** [Contact Council](#)  
**Subject:** No to ORDINANCE 21-098  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 3:47:18 PM

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I recommend the county vote no on the proposed ORDINANCE 21-098 to increase the sales tax by .1% throughout Snohomish County.

On Wednesday, December 15, 2021, Governor Inslee announced a host of efforts to address homelessness in the state, including efforts to help people stay in their homes, increasing emergency shelters and permanent supportive housing, and expanding services for those struggling with addiction or mental health issues.

Inslee's plan looks to spend about \$815 million, with more than two-thirds covered by federal coronavirus funding the state has received. His proposal looks to build on nearly \$2 billion of state and federal money that was approved by the Legislature earlier this year for housing and homelessness programs.

Among the spending he is asking the Legislature to approve:

—\$100 million in federal money to build about 1,500 permanent supporting housing and permanent affordable housing units to serve a variety of populations, including those with chronic mental illness who need services.

—An additional \$334 million, mostly federal funds, housing ranging from tiny homes to enhanced emergency shelters.

—\$100 million in state funds to expand homeless shelter capacity.

—\$60 million in federal funds to expand treatment beds for chronic behavioral health conditions.

—More than \$48 million in state money to increase access to supportive housing and employment, and help people maintain both even during behavioral health crises.

—Nearly \$51 million in state funds to transition people from unsanctioned encampments on public rights of way, like areas along highways, to shelter or housing and to clean up and restructure the former encampments to prevent new ones from forming.

—\$3.5 million in state funds and passage of a new statewide policy to expand where housing supply like duplexes and other types of "middle housing" can be built.

—\$6 million to expand programs for homeless youth and young adults, including additional case managers, housing and rent assistance, and other support services.

The majority of these funds are already received by the state with additional funding sources to be provided by the state. There is no reason to ask those who purchase products and services in Snohomish county to bear this burden with an increase in the sales tax.

I am certain at least a portion of these funds is designated for Snohomish County which covers the \$116,560,505 price tag of this ordinance over the next five years.

At a minimum, the county should table this vote until the special budget session in Olympia has concluded. Once the amount for Snohomish County is determined, then voters of Snohomish County should vote of filling in the gap for the funding of these programs.

Robert Moore  
425-301-7657  
[robertmoore@outlook.com](mailto:robertmoore@outlook.com)

**RECEIVED AFTER  
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**From:** [edmondskar@aol.com](mailto:edmondskar@aol.com)  
**To:** [Contact Council](#)  
**Subject:** Sales Tax Increase For Housing  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 4:00:25 PM

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County Council

Please vote no on the upcoming vote to increase the sales tax in Snohomish County for public housing, and instead allow citizens to vote on this issue.

Personally, I would agree with 1/10th of a percent sales tax to fund homeless, housing unsecure and affordable housing if I was confident that 100% of those funds were spent on those issues, but unfortunately these type of measures often only result in raising those taxes further down the road and spending it where it will not have a lasting impact. For instance, of those funds, what percentage is earmarked for programs that address the underlying issues of housing insecurity and homelessness. It is not enough to simply find low income housing for people you need to overcome reluctance to move out of tents or other homeless situations, and address alcoholism, drug addiction, unemployment, and mental illness. The public has lost confidence that these issues are being addressed, given how long it takes to clear up homeless tent encampments in parks and residential areas. While I do not have homeless camped across the street from my house, I can certainly empathize not only with the homeless themselves but with homeowners that are impacted by it - worries of rodent infestations, safety, not to mention the aesthetics and reduction of their property values.

In addition I understand that times are difficult financially for many people in our community, especially during this pandemic, and to increase sales tax would be a burden on them.

Because of this, I respectfully ask that you vote no and instead put this on the ballot and give citizens a voice and vote on this important issue.

Thank you.

Kathy Ryan, Edmonds, WA

**From:** [BASS, ROBERT](#)  
**To:** [McCrary, Mike](#)  
**Cc:** [Somers, Dave J](#); [Contact Council](#); [Machen, Joshua](#); [Ken Lyons](#); [carly.nations@wirelesspolicy.com](mailto:carly.nations@wirelesspolicy.com)  
**Subject:** AT&T Thank You - Snohomish County  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 4:02:57 PM  
**Attachments:** [Snohomish County - Thank You Letter 2021.pdf](#)

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Dear Director McCrary,

On behalf of our staff at AT&T, I would like to express our gratitude. Attached is a letter acknowledging your staff's professionalism and dedication.

Please extend our thanks to your team. We look forward to working with you in 2022.

Sincerely,

Bob

**Bob Bass**

President – Pacific Northwest

External & Legislative Affairs

**AT&T Services, Inc.**

7277 164TH AVE NE, Redmond, WA 98052

m 425.786.8816 | [rb3794@att.com](mailto:rb3794@att.com)

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Bob Bass  
President, External Affairs  
Pacific Northwest

AT&T Services, Inc.  
7277 164<sup>th</sup> Ave NE  
Redmond, WA 98052

M: 425-786-8816  
robert.bass@att.com  
www.att.com

December 13, 2021

Mike McCrary  
Director, Planning and Development Services  
Snohomish County  
3000 Rockefeller Avenue, M/S 604  
Everett, WA 98201

VIA EMAIL: [m.mccrary@snoco.org](mailto:m.mccrary@snoco.org)

**RE: Thank You**

Dear Director McCrary:

As 2021 comes to a close, AT&T would like to thank Snohomish County for your role in our efforts to enhance and expand connectivity in our communities. Each project improves our network, and the roll out of FirstNet helps to keep people safe by enhancing the effectiveness of public safety communications. Every year is different, and this past year presented new and unexpected challenges that required resilience and new ways of working together.

The guidance and support of Snohomish County is essential to our success, and we are grateful for the opportunity to work with the Planning and Development Services staff. We'd like to especially acknowledge Joshua Machen & the entire Planning and Building team for their exceptional professionalism and dedication to service.

We look forward to working together with Snohomish County in 2022 as AT&T continues to enhance wireless connectivity and communications in the County.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Bass".

Bob Bass  
President, External Affairs  
Pacific Northwest

cc: Dave Somers, County Executive  
Snohomish County Council  
Joshua Machen, Senior Planner

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**From:** [Beazizo, Heidi](#)  
**To:** [Keith James](#)  
**Cc:** [Duane Leonard](#); [Brian Kristjansson](#); [Contact Council](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Ordinance No. 21-098 - Support for 0.1% Sales Tax for Affordable Housing and Behavioral Health  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 4:16:53 PM  
**Attachments:** [12.15.2021 Inland Group - Letter of Support.pdf](#)

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Thank you. I am cc'ing Contact Council so your letter can be shared with the rest of council.

Regards, Heidi

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**From:** Keith James <[keithj@inlandconstruction.com](mailto:keithj@inlandconstruction.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 4:15 PM

**To:** Beazizo, Heidi <[Heidi.Beazizo@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:Heidi.Beazizo@co.snohomish.wa.us)>

**Cc:** Duane Leonard <[dleonard@hasco.org](mailto:dleonard@hasco.org)>; Brian Kristjansson <[brian@desimonecg.com](mailto:brian@desimonecg.com)>

**Subject:** Ordinance No. 21-098 - Support for 0.1% Sales Tax for Affordable Housing and Behavioral Health

**CAUTION :** This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Heidi,

Please see the attached letter of support for the Affordable Housing and Behavioral Health Tax ordinance being considered by Snohomish County. Please call or email if you have any questions or would like any follow up conversation. Thank you.

Keith James

Inland Group

120 W. Cataldo Ave., Suite 100

Spokane, WA 99201

(509) 321-3218 Office

(509) 607-2233 Cell

[keithj@inlandconstruction.com](mailto:keithj@inlandconstruction.com)



# Inland Group

Comprehensive Multifamily Construction & Development Services

December 15, 2021

Heidi Beazizo  
Snohomish County

**Re: Ordinance No. 21-098  
Support for 0.1% Sales Tax for Affordable Housing and Behavioral Health**

Dear Heidi:

I am writing to voice strong support for the proposed 0.1% Sales Tax for Affordable Housing and Behavioral Health.

Inland Group is a Spokane-based developer, general contractor, owner, and operator of affordable housing and senior housing. Over the last 15 years, we have built a portfolio of over 14,000 units in nine states, including more than 5,000 units in Washington, including at least 1,000 units in Snohomish County. Affordable housing projects completed include those financed with 9% tax credits serving formerly homeless residents (permanent supportive housing) and those financed with private activity bonds and 4% tax credits serving seniors or families earning up to 60% of area median income.

These financing resources are increasingly scarce at a time when demand for affordable housing has never been greater. Specific to the private activity bond/4% tax credit projects (the primary financing resource for all low- and moderate-income housing), the Washington State Housing Finance Commission controls the policies that govern allocation of these financing resources. New/current policies significantly favor “publicly leveraged” projects; those that include funding from a local or State resource. The same policies also intend to limit allocation of statewide resources to no more than 40% of the total for projects in King and Snohomish Counties. Given the significant public leverage resources available from both the City of Seattle and from King County, significant risk exists that Snohomish County would receive considerably less of these scarce funding resources going forward; Seattle and King County have funds to contribute to projects, those projects will score higher with public leveraging points, limiting projects in Snohomish County from competing well enough to receive an allocation). If the sales tax for affordable housing is passed, Snohomish County could compete on a more even playfield with Seattle and King County and continue to deliver much-needed affordable housing.

Should you have any questions about the facts presented or our strong belief in the need for the 0.1% sales tax, please contact me at (509) 607-2233 or [keithj@inlandconstruction.com](mailto:keithj@inlandconstruction.com). Thank you.

Sincerely,

Keith James  
Developer

**RECEIVED AFTER  
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**From:** [Karen Kyle](#)  
**To:** [Contact Council](#)  
**Subject:** Thanks for giving us the shaft once again!!  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 8:21:19 PM

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Tax increase when we are living with bidens inflation!! You all suck!!!

Karen Kyle

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device  
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

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**From:** [Chuck Lie](#)  
**To:** [Somers, Dave J](#)  
**Cc:** [Contact Council](#); [claudia.yaw@heraldnet.com](mailto:claudia.yaw@heraldnet.com)  
**Subject:** Homeless Tax Increase should have had a Sunset target  
**Date:** Thursday, December 16, 2021 10:32:06 PM

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Dave, thanks for your leadership again on the sales tax increase to help fund housing support. I am very embarrassed to see the homeless and their plight. I am also embarrassed by the tax structure in the state. I fully agree with the council members that complained it was a regressive tax and that the homeless WSST should have had a sunset provision.

My suggestion is to get those that opposed this tax to lobby the legislature to impose an income tax. In the mean time, there is no benefit to society to kick the can down the street regarding the housing crisis.

Chuck Lie  
just a fed up citizen with no regalia  
39964 May Creek Road  
Gold Bar, Washington