

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

CONSENT AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of Commissioners

FROM: Heidi Eisenhour, Commissioner

DATE: July 15, 2024

RE: Letter of Support for Jefferson Land Trust and Olympic Housing Trust, Chimacum Commons Project

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Jefferson County's leading conservation organization, Jefferson Land Trust (JLT), has partnered with the Olympic Housing Trust (OHT), a nonprofit housing provider, to develop critical workforce housing. The proposed project of Chimacum Commons is located in the heart of the unincorporated Jefferson County within the rural farming community of Chimacum.

ANALYSIS:

JLT and OHT are requesting a grant that will support the predevelopment phase of the project and enable them to pursue all of the site analysis, architecture, and other preliminary work required to move the project to the next phase and eventually funded and built.

FISCAL IMPACT:

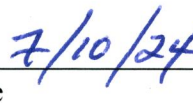
None.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend the BoCC sign the letter of support.

REVIEWED BY:


Mark McCauley, County Administrator


Date



Board of County Commissioners
1820 Jefferson Street
PO Box 1220
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Kate Dean, District 1 Heidi Eisenhour, District 2 Greg Brotherton, District 3

July 15, 2024

Community Based Organization Planning and Predesign Capital Equity Program
Department of Commerce
P.O. Box 42525
Olympia, WA 98504-2525
ATTN: Alice Zillah, Alice.Zillah@commerce.wa.gov

Re: Support for Jefferson Land Trust, Chimacum Commons project

Jefferson County's leading conservation organization, Jefferson Land Trust (JLT), has partnered with the Olympic Housing Trust (OHT), a nonprofit housing provider, to develop critical workforce housing. The proposed project of Chimacum Commons is located in the heart of the unincorporated Jefferson County within the rural farming community of Chimacum.

JLT is dedicated to preserving farms, fish, and forests across the county and has successfully protected hundreds of acres of habitat and historic farmland. Now, their organization is helping support a prospective affordable housing project to ensure that there will be residents and farmers living and working in Chimacum who are able to sustain these protected lands.

The Jefferson County Commissioners wish to support this project as a standout example of collaboration between local nonprofits and an example of how the County can support innovative housing projects that secure workforce housing for local residents. We see JLT and OHT as perfect candidates for the 'Planning and predesign grants for community-based organizations' that the Department of Commerce is offering.

We support Jefferson Land Trust and Olympic Housing Trust's predevelopment for the Chimacum Commons project and wish them success. We commend this vision to develop new permanently affordable workforce housing in our rural county.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Kate Dean, Chair
District 1

Greg Brotherton
District 3

Heidi Eisenhour
District 2