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November 27, 2024

File: 0400-20

The Honourable David Eby  
Premier, Province of British Columbia  
**Via email: [Premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Premier@gov.bc.ca)**

The Honourable Ravi Kahlon  
Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs  
**Via email: [HOUS.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:HOUS.minister@gov.bc.ca)**

Dear Premier and Minister Kahlon:

**RE: REQUEST FOR THE CREATION OF A RURAL HOUSING STREAM**

On behalf of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board, I write to request the Province's consideration to create a rural housing stream and supports to facilitate construction and operation of affordable housing suited within the unique constraints of rural communities. As the housing crisis continues to impact the entire province, the challenges faced by rural areas are often distinct and require specific solutions that differ from those suitable in urban or suburban environments.

A dedicated rural housing stream could address these issues by providing targeted funding, incentives, and flexible regulations that take into account the geographic, social and economic realities of rural areas. This would facilitate the construction of housing projects designed to meet local needs, supporting the development of smaller, more scalable solutions that are feasible in the context of rural infrastructure. By offering rural-specific supports, such as funding for partnerships with non-profit housing providers or specialized grants for on-site infrastructure development, the province can help ensure that housing projects in these communities are financially viable and sustainable.

The CRD Board respectfully requests your consideration of this proposal, and I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with you or your staff.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Cliff McNeil-Smith  
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

cc: CRD Board  
Ted Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD