Jessica Mitchell

For the last several years, state leaders have acknowledged that Washington needs more housing. That"s why we"ve seen efforts to allow more middle housing, more ADUs, and more flexibility for local governments trying to accommodate growth. What frustrates me about this proposal is that it seems to move in the opposite direction. We can"t spend years passing housing reforms and then create a whole new set of regulations that make those homes harder to build. If housing affordability is truly a priority, state policies need to pull in the same direction.
Washington cannot regulate its way out of a housing crisis. Ecology should withdraw this proposal and return with a version that fully addresses sea-level-rise and storm severity planning without making homes more expensive or reducing opportunities to build housing for Washington families.