Melissa Barnhart

Washington doesn''t have a housing shortage because we have too much land available for homes. We have a housing shortage because it''s become increasingly difficult to build enough housing to keep up with demand. That''s why I''m concerned about provisions in this proposal that could further restrict land development.
Every time we make less land available for housing, the remaining land becomes more expensive. Government agencies don''t absorb that cost. They pass it on to homebuyers and renters through higher permit fees. When people are already struggling to find affordable housing, we should look for ways to increase options, not reduce them.
Go back to the drawing board and remove every provision of the rule change that affects housing costs and land availability for housing.