Jennifer Thomas

Iâ€™m appealing to your humanity and wondering if itâ€™s possible to find a more reasonable solution? 9 out of 10 families in Washington state already canâ€™t afford to purchase a home. By increasing costs on new builds, it couldnâ€™t prevent a buyer from moving up the housing ladder and this continuing to restrict the entry point to homeownership for first time buyers.

What concerns me most about the proposed rules is the assumption that one more requirement won"t make much difference. Maybe it wouldn"t if it were the only one. But that"s never the case. Housing projects are already facing a long list of regulations, fees, studies, and permitting requirements.

At some point, all of those additional costs show up in housing prices. That"s part of the reason homes have become so difficult to afford in the first place. Iâ€™m asking you to please look for ways to cut unnecessary costs, not add new ones during a housing affordability crisis.

Please, ask Ecology should go back to the drawing board and strip out every provision that raises housing costs, reduces housing capacity, or undermines the state"s efforts to make housing more affordable.