Charly Myers

As a builder and a real estate broker, I see first hand how over regulation has caused housing prices to sky rocket. We cannot build affordable housing and cannot find affordable lots. The added regulations by this state has caused land shortages, which have made land increase drastically in price. Low supply with high demand causes price increases. The same is happening to builders. This state has made it so hard to own a business and build that many builders have left the state. The over regulation, burdensome permitting process and unfriendly business atmosphere has created this mess and has driven cost thru the roof. Home buyers are already struggling with the cost of housing. There is no need for this increased regulation. And it is not in builders or home homers interest to have each jurisdiction making up their own rules for rivers, streams and wetlands.

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.