Deborah Bennett

implement HB 1181 as intended, without making housing harder to build or less affordable for Washington families.

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. We should look for ways to cut unnecessary costs, not add new ones during a housing affordability crisis.
This proposal misses the mark. 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.