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Dear Consortium Member,

My name is Amanda DeShazo, and it's an honor to introduce myself to you as the new Executive Director of the Tacoma-Pierce County Affordable Housing Consortium (TPCAHC). I'm excited to lead this important organization into its next chapter.

It is apparent that we've got our work cut out for us as a lack of affordable housing, especially in Pierce County, continues to prevail. The housing stock is decreasing while rents are skyrocketing and displacing median and low-wage earners. With your partnership, I'm confident that we can change the landscape while preserving Pierce County's uniqueness and affordability. I appreciate individuals such as you that continue to make progress for affordable housing in our community, and whose engagement and support make this work possible.

I'd like to share with you my priorities and vision for TPCAHC as it enters into its 15th year. Please feel free to reach out to me and let me know what you think:

1. Become a stronger county-wide advocate. Work with members and partner organizations to make sure that Pierce County and its municipalities are improving and adding policies to create and preserve affordable housing.
2. Build public awareness about the need and benefits of affordable housing. Identifying specific concerns and objections to affordable housing will help us overcome them. Our role at TPCAHC is to connect with our neighbors and local stakeholders to inform them of how affordable housing protects the uniqueness of Pierce County while providing advocacy and solutions for affordable housing at the local and state level.
3. Strengthen partnerships with our members and their capacity to continue doing the great work they do. TPCAHC is here to serve our members by building upon their knowledge of affordable housing, connecting them to opportunities to get their voices heard, and by facilitating partnerships amongst each other. With over 50 members representing a variety of sectors, resources and expertise are never in short supply.

I hope that you will continue to stay engaged with the Consortium as we push to make sure all Pierce County residents have access to decent, safe, and affordable housing. Thank you for standing with us.

Respectfully,



Amanda DeShazo, Executive Director
TACOMA PIERCE COUNTY
AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONSORTIUM