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August 27, 2013

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Mayor Bruce Tabb &
City Council Members
City of Ellensburg
501 N Anderson St
Ellensburg, WA 98926

OFFICE OF CITY MANAGER
ELLENSBURG, WA

Dear Mayor Tabb and City Council,

Affordable housing is of significant interest to of Central Washington University, making your review of the City of Ellensburg Land Use Code Update a highly relevant topic to me. I do not envy the complex task of reviewing and updating the code, and I am neither qualified to nor authorized to make specific recommendations to sections of your code review.

It is, however, my responsibility to call to your attention the importance of affordable housing to the operations of CWU. As you are aware, the majority of CWU students and almost our entire workforce reside off campus. CWU competes for those students, staff, and faculty on a statewide, national, and sometimes global level, and both the availability and affordability of housing (for purchase and for rent) is a prime consideration for those making decisions to relocate to Ellensburg. The availability of adequate, attractive, and affordable housing is also a factor in our ability to retain the students, staff, and faculty members we recruit here, most of who have options to study or be employed elsewhere.

CWU enjoys an experienced staff and faculty. Like many other universities across the country, we employ many individuals who are reaching an age at which retirement is an option. The State is also encouraging us to increase our enrollment. Both of these pressures suggest the demand for an increasing inventory of affordable housing.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and I am available to discuss CWU staffing and enrollment plans as your request.

Sincerely,


James L. Gaudino
President

Office of the President

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