

Dear [COUNCIL MEMBER or COMMISSIONER _____] ,

As your constituent, I ask that you join me in helping to achieve Habitat Wake's vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live by supporting policies to address housing affordability in [YOUR TOWN or CITY].

To be considered "affordable," housing expenses must be less than 30 percent of a family's household income. In the United States, 19 million families spend half or even more of their income on housing costs, leaving little left over for other necessary expenses.

Here in Wake and Johnston counties, one in four families must choose between spending money on a safe place to live and spending money on groceries, health care, education, or reliable transportation. Which would you choose?

Too many families have to make these choices, and as a community, we can't afford to let that happen. That's why Habitat Wake is joining with hundreds of Habitat organizations across the country to launch our first national advocacy campaign: Cost of Home. Bold action is needed to address the increasing cost of housing and ensure everyone has an affordable place to call home.

[Personalize your message to have more impact. Share your perspective, including why housing affordability is important to you.]

As your constituent, I urge you to increase home affordability through policy solutions aimed at:

- Increasing funding to support the supply and preservation of affordable homes
- Expanding down payment assistance to help people purchase affordable homes of their own
- Identifying surplus, publicly-owned land that can be used for affordable homes
- Prioritizing planning decisions that align bus routes and public transportation with affordable housing
- Supporting property tax relief programs to ensure homes stay affordable long term

Everyone deserves to build the foundation for a strong, healthy future for themselves and their families – no matter where they live or how much money they earn. Every family deserves the chance to thrive.

Help us make that possible. Help us make the #CostOfHome something we all can afford. For more information, visit habitatwake.org/costofhome.

Thank you for your consideration of support for these policy solutions that address housing affordability.

Sincerely,
[YOUR NAME]