

From: rmdenton@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, November 27, 2025 8:24 AM
To: Planning
Subject: Public comment on HopeSource affordable housing project

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Michelle Denton
209 Broadway Street
Cle Elum, WA 98922



Cle Elum Planning Commission

119 W. First Street
Cle Elum, WA 98922

Subject: Strong Support for HopeSource Affordable Housing Project

Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed HopeSource development—a 41-unit permanently affordable multi-family housing complex with a childcare center on a public transit route. This project represents an important step toward addressing the housing challenges facing Cle Elum and ensuring our community remains vibrant, inclusive, and economically sustainable.

Here's why this project matters:

1. A Small but Meaningful Addition

The development adds only 41 units—just 2% of our population. This is a modest, well-planned solution to a growing problem: essential workers, teachers, caregivers, and service staff cannot afford to live in Cle Elum.

2. Preserving Community Character

Affordable housing does not diminish Cle Elum's charm; it strengthens it. By allowing local workers and families to live here, we maintain the character and connectedness that make our town special.

3. Economic and Social Benefits

With median home prices ranging from \$590,000 to over \$794,000—and many listings above \$1 million—housing is out of reach for most working families. This project ensures that those who serve our community can also call it home, reducing long commutes and supporting local businesses.

4. **Dispelling Myths**

Research and experience show that well-managed affordable housing does not increase crime or lower property values. HopeSource has a proven track record of creating safe, thriving communities across Washington.

5. **Smart Growth and Infrastructure**

The project is located on a public transit route, reducing traffic and car dependency. It includes sidewalks, surface parking, and other site improvements, ensuring thoughtful integration into our town's infrastructure. It is also walking distance to UKCSC.

6. **Investment in Our Future**

Funding through grants and loans is not a burden—it's an investment in Cle Elum's long-term health. Affordable housing reduces social costs, strengthens the workforce, and builds resilience.

7. **Collective Good**

This is about fairness, opportunity, and sustainability. It's about saying YES to a future where everyone belongs and our community thrives together.

I urge the Planning Commission to approve this project and demonstrate that Cle Elum values inclusivity, smart growth, and the collective good.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Michelle Denton

Resident of Cle Elum

