

— Green Neighborhoods Coalition —

August 26, 2026

Office of the Mayor
City of Seattle
600 4th Ave, 7th Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Mayor Wilson,

The [Green Neighborhoods Coalition](#) (GNC) welcomes your administration's recent [effort to accelerate housing production](#) in Seattle's communities. Your executive order calls for community-driven input, and we respectfully request formal inclusion in your Housing Production Task Force.

Seattle urgently needs more housing. As we have seen in previous growth efforts, involving communities and people with lived experience during, [not after](#), major policy deliberations produces stronger policy, builds public trust, and achieves shared outcomes.

Your announcement recognizes the importance of community involvement, but the task force does not currently include organizations focused on environmental sustainability, climate resilience, green space, equity, or displacement. GNC can bring those perspectives to the table.

GNC is a new coalition with deep roots in Seattle's communities and many of the issues shaping the city's future. We bring together people with deep experience in parks and open space, environmental sustainability and design, land use experts, neighborhood advocacy, and equity and displacement, including leaders from nonprofits, environmental organizations, and former park superintendents, deputy mayors, and civic leaders. We support building more housing while expanding parks, trees, and green infrastructure, strengthening climate resilience, and protecting longtime residents from displacement. Seattle can grow without forcing residents to choose between more housing and healthy, livable neighborhoods.

Our participation brings a practical, solution-oriented perspective to the task force. We will identify ways to coordinate enhanced housing production with green infrastructure investment, universal access to green space, preservation of our urban tree canopy, and protection of those neighborhoods and residents most likely to absorb the new growth.

[Recent polling commissioned by GNC](#) underscores why these perspectives matter and shows that the community's voice is growing louder:

- Only 1 in 10 Seattle residents understand the City's housing growth plan.
- Support for the plan starts at 64% but falls to 42% when voters learn it does not include protections for neighborhood livability, displacement, and climate resilience, a 22-point drop.

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- The responses grow more stark in places most prone to displacement and climate disruption: South Seattle, the Central District, and marginalized communities long left out of growth discussions.

Your task force has an opportunity to bring more voices into Seattle's housing conversation and build broader support for the creative solutions our city needs. Including GNC will add a perspective not currently represented among its members and help connect housing production with the environmental, equity, and neighborhood investments that residents expect as Seattle grows.

We respectfully ask you to include the Green Neighborhoods Coalition in the Housing Production Task Force and would welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can contribute to its work.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Peter M. Rees, AIA

Rees Architects LLC

Immediate Past Board President, Arboretum Foundation / Seattle Botanic Gardens

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Stephen Sullivan Designs