

October 13, 2022  
  
“When we get piled upon one another in large cities, as in Europe, we shall become as corrupt as Europe.” – Thomas Jefferson    
   
Consider the lack of accountability and poor policy that comes from our big cities, like Seattle.  High density zoning is being forced and home ownership limited.      
   
Burdensome regulations, bad government, and non-sensical environmental policies are ruining the American dream of owning a home.  Home ownership is a critical step towards building financial security and America must allow that opportunity to all who wish to work to achieve it.   
   
Earlier this year the Home Builders Association presented data showing only 20% of families can afford to buy a home in the Tri-cities.  Those making an average household income, cannot afford the average cost of a home.   
   
There are a lot of factors involved in making homes unaffordable.    
Shipping costs, supply shortage, and the backlog of production from tyrannical lockdowns have all contributed to high supply costs.      
   
There are limitations in land availability, because of an outdated Growth Management Act that restricts industrial and home building.  This increases the price of homes, as there is less available land.    
   
Permitting requirements are also stifling home production, due to excessive regulation.    
Excessively long occupational licensing requirements are preventing trade professionals from working.    
   
Then, there is the 2030 phase out of natural gas.   We can already see that the left’s commitment to electric power is devastating and unnecessary.    
   
To increase home ownership, we can open our state forests to utilize lumber to lower supply costs.  We can reform the Growth Management Act to allow more industrial and housing development.  We must remove unnecessary regulations and get more professionals to work be streamlining occupational requirements, where appropriate.    
   
We must remove utility restrictions and allow our communities to prosper.  Government aid must come in the form of lowering taxes, not government subsidy or government-built housing.   This would only grow bureaucracy at our expense and make the middle class more reliant on the government.    
   
Our homeless problem is not the result of unaffordable housing.  Consider what would happen to you if your house became unaffordable.  You would likely be taken in by a close friend, relative, or find a way to share the burden by sharing your home with other wage earners.      
   
The homeless problem is more influenced by the broken home and lack of family connections.  It is the result of drug use, addiction, and loss of hope.  We cannot put broken families back together, but we can establish resources to help and consider the effect policy has on the family.    
   
There are no detox facilities in the Tri-cities.  They are necessary.  We need more halfway houses, leadership training, and programs that orient recovered addicts back into the workforce.    
   
Three years of jail ministry at the Benton Count Jail, serving the homeless, and substance abuse recovery through U-Turn for Christ have allowed me to serve these groups.  I believe the greatest need of those who are homeless is hope.  Certainly, due to the nature of the ministry, my message has been that of grace and love from Jesus Christ, but we also provide encouragement when we show the homeless community that we value them, by providing these restorative services.    
   
There is a lot of work to do, but our collective efforts can restore Washington State and make it an amazing place to live and raise a family.    
   
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Passion For Liberty     
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