



September 26, 2017

Dear Municipal, Town and County Elected Officials,

The Chambers of Commerce of Boulder, Broomfield and Longmont have come together to create the Northwest Chamber Alliance (NWCA) in order to positively engage the business communities in our respective jurisdictions to enhance our economic sustainability and quality of life. We know that working together to strengthen the private sector's meaningful and constructive participation in the issues before us will significantly further the discussions, decisions and actions that are so crucial to addressing the opportunities and the challenges to our region's future.

Key among the issues of concern is attainable workforce housing, providing a diversity of housing options, locations, prices, and both rental and ownership opportunities that will enable the workforce in Boulder and Broomfield counties to live and work locally. We needn't reiterate the data or the negative impacts of the lack of affordable and diverse housing for low, moderate and middle income families. You all are well aware of the issues and the impacts on employment, transportation, the environment, schools, community and individual health, and civic participation as well as the negative personal impacts on families with long and stressful commutes. These, sadly, are not new in our region, and despite many best efforts continue to burden our residents.

The *Regional Housing Strategy* report presents an opportunity to begin needed regional discussions which we hope will lead to greater cooperative efforts among the public, non-profit and private sectors. The business communities that we represent are ready and eager to expand the involvement we have had to date and to actively join the leadership of those sectors in creatively identifying and addressing the practical solutions to address our workforce housing needs.

The NWCA is prepared to participate as a constructive partner in the work going forward on housing diversity and affordability. Beginning in 2018, we will create a forum to engage the business community in bringing a private sector perspective and, especially important, a commitment to working together with the public and non-profit sectors on housing issues in our region. We are prepared to actively and positively join the conversations and the actions on strategies identified by the Regional Partnership such as land banking, re-zoning, expanded use of industrial and commercial buildings, increased flexibility in regulations and processes for qualified housing projects, linking housing and transportation improvements, and collaborative financing.

We have been asked and eagerly accept the invitation to convene the leaders in the private sector – such as business owners, developers, bankers and lenders, large and small employers, land owners, land use planners and architects - to provide knowledgeable input, skilled assistance, proven innovation and collaborative partnerships in the decisions regarding expanded housing diversity and opportunity. In addition, by actively engaging the private sector in these crucial discussions and decisions, we can envision that this private-public sector collaboration may lead to the development of creative opportunities for housing development and re-development in our region.

We urge you as elected officials to move forward with a plan for addressing our housing diversity, accessibility and workforce housing needs. As leaders in the community and representatives of the business sector in Boulder and Broomfield counties, we look forward to convening and involving the private sector as constructive participants and partners with the public and non-profit sectors in achieving our communities' housing goals.

Sincerely,

John Tayer
President & CEO
Boulder Chamber

Sam Taylor
Interim President & CEO
Access Broomfield Chamber

Scott Cook
Chief Executive Officer
Longmont Area Chamber of Commerce



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About the Northwest Chamber Alliance

The Northwest Chamber Alliance was formed in 2016 as a coalition focused on regional issues that impact economic vitality and quality of life. It is currently comprised of the Boulder, Broomfield and Longmont Chambers, representing approximately 2,400 businesses made up of 100,000 employees. These businesses range from large international corporations to small businesses, startups, nonprofits and public institutions. For more information on the NWCA, please contact Andrea Meneghel, Public Affairs Director for the Boulder Chamber, andrea.meneghel@boulderchamber.com