



Dear Friends,

*With the winter weather behind us, we at HRB are focused on many different efforts currently underway on Bainbridge and around Washington that will grow the stock of affordable homes. This email represents the kick-off of our monthly advocacy digest, through which we hope to engage our supporters across the Island and beyond to make our voices heard on the need for affordable housing. We hope you will join us.*

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### **From City Hall – The Suzuki Project takes shape**

On February 5<sup>th</sup> the City approved a motion to contract with HRB for a feasibility study to develop approximately four-acres of the 13.78-acre parcel known as the Suzuki Property. Located at the corner of New Brooklyn Road and Sportsman Club Road, the development offers one of the best opportunities in decades for the City to take a leadership position in addressing the affordability crisis on Bainbridge Island.



The [history](#) of development potential on the Suzuki Property dates back to 2015, when the City Council decided to consider development alternatives for the property and issued a request for proposals. Olympic Property Group (OPG) prepared a number of site plans and now serves as the lead consultant in moving the Suzuki Project through the project approval and environmental review process. OPG's [contract](#) does not extend to the development and construction phase.

In order to fulfill our mission, and as the only housing non-profit serving Bainbridge Island, HRB has a strong desire to help the City realize the vision for Suzuki and has pledged to work with all partners to make the project a reality. The City has very [clear goals](#) for affordability and conservation including 100% affordability for all units for income levels from 30-120% of area median income; permanent housing affordability for all rental and home ownership properties; and protection of the natural environment.

Your continued support and advocacy to the City Council can help HRB move this project forward and ensure that we are able to maximize the number of affordable housing units built on the property. You can send an email to [council@bainbridgewa.gov](mailto:council@bainbridgewa.gov) to share your thoughts and support for this vital project the City Council.

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### **Down in Olympia – Reducing barriers to ADU construction**



A [pair of bills](#) aimed at spurring production of modest basement or mother-in-law style apartments in neighborhoods of detached houses made it out of their respective House and Senate committees last week. The bills (HB 1797/SB 5812) would allow up to two accessory dwellings per lot and prohibit restrictions commonly imposed by cities that make it difficult for people to construct them, such as off-street parking requirements.

Passage of either of these bills would help Bainbridge Island check off one more recommendation from the Affordable Housing Task Force's Report in July 2018, which encouraged the City to "adopt procedures to encourage Accessory Dwelling Units" on Bainbridge Island.

You can contact Bainbridge Island's State Legislators through the following links:

- [Sen. Christine Rolfes](#)
  - [Rep. Drew Hansen](#)
  - [Rep. Sherry Appleton](#)
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## Our Mission

**Our mission is to preserve the diversity and vitality of Bainbridge Island by providing and maintaining affordable housing opportunities in the community.**

**Please help support our work by making a donation today!**

**Donate**