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November 19, 2021

Kittery Town Council
200 Rogers Rd.
Kittery, ME 03904

Dear Town Councilors-

As the Executive Director of Fair Tide and a member of the Kittery Housing Committee, I strongly encourage you to approve the proposed Accessory Dwelling Unit grant program. This thoughtful pilot program leverages American Rescue Plan Act funds to address the severe lack of affordable housing options in our town, an issue that impacts an increasing number of households every day.

This program is the result of many months of research and deliberation, including examining similar initiatives that exist across the country. By targeting applicants with moderate incomes, this program is designed to benefit multiple households. The ADU provides an affordable home to folks who may otherwise be priced out of Kittery. For the homeowners, the rental income offers much needed financial security. These outcomes are achieved through a relatively nominal investment when compared to the cost of building new housing units.

The accomplishments of the Kittery Housing Committee over the last few years are worth celebrating. While progress can sometimes be difficult to detect, our community has most certainly become a regional leader in our efforts to combat this major crisis. By voting to move forward with the ADU program you are further elevating Kittery as a community at the forefront of one of the biggest issues of our time.

Thank you for your consideration, and I wish you all a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

Emily Flinkstrom

Fair Tide, Executive Director