



Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions

June 27, 2022

Honorable Katie Cristol, Chair
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 300
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Chair Cristol:

The Arlington Hub of the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS) encourages the Arlington County Board to adopt the Missing Middle Housing Study Phase 2 Draft Framework. The Missing Middle approach to housing in Arlington aligns with FACS priorities, morally and environmentally. Morally, we believe in providing opportunities for those who support our community to live in our community, and we want to help correct race-based, exclusionary zoning that led to the majority of Arlington being covered by single family only zoning. Environmentally, we are opposed to sprawl, its affiliated emissions, damage to land, and compromises to public health.

FACS is a Northern Virginia based non-profit uniting people of faith to develop local solutions to the climate crisis. We advocate for climate policies from a nonpartisan perspective, and we work with communities and congregations to pursue policies and projects that protect people and the planet. Our focus is on advancing policies locally, where we continue to have the greatest impact.

Morally, as people of faith, we appreciate that Arlington County is taking important steps to provide more housing options for more people in our community. The Missing Middle Framework is a step towards addressing Arlington's history of zoning policy that excludes races and classes of people from living in our community and from benefiting from the economic and academic opportunities enjoyed by others living in Arlington County. Further, our communities are enriched when we know, as neighbors, the people who work with us, including those who support us from the public and non-profit sectors.

The Missing Middle approach to using our land has many climate and environmental benefits. FACS wants to reduce vehicle-related emissions and the cost, quality of life, and public health burdens that come from pushing people to live farther from their jobs. We are opposed to the many harmful consequences of forcing development on previously undeveloped lands, undermining their natural value for recreation, groundwater management, and storing carbon. Additionally, multi-unit housing is far more energy efficient than large structures housing single families.

The FACS Arlington Hub appreciates that this Phase 2 Draft Framework addresses some, but not all, of the challenges and opportunities for enhancing our community through housing diversity. We have some concerns about some of the details in the plan and will participate in

Arlington County's ongoing opportunities to express our positions and support effective housing diversity, affordability, and environmental sustainability.

Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions aligns with the views expressed to you by, among other supporters, the NAACP Arlington branch, the League of Women Voters of Arlington and Alexandria City, and the Potomac River Group Chapter of the Sierra Club on the critical issue of access to housing and land use. Therefore, we urge the Arlington County board to support the Missing Middle Housing Study Phase 2 Draft Framework.

Sincerely,

Julie Rosenberg
FACS Arlington Hub, Leader
FACS Board Member