

**Testimony in Favor of Bill 5-25**  
**Demolition Tax for Affordable Housing Production**  
**Mara Greengrass**

My name is Mara Greengrass and I'm a resident of Council District 6. I write to urge you to vote for the Demolition Tax for Affordable Housing Production. This tax would lead to several good outcomes, very necessary in the current economy.

Single family homes are most often replaced by much more expensive housing (I've seen estimates up to twice as much!). An excise tax on demolition of these homes would have two possible responses: Either it would discourage the demolition of the less expensive housing or it would provide funds for the Housing Initiative Fund, which would enable the county to build affordable housing.

Raising the \$4 million staff have estimated based on previous years' demolition permits for affordable housing sounds like a good idea, especially given the expected increase in unemployment in the county.

Bill 5-25 has reasonable exemptions to this tax, such as properties that have been condemned, medical necessity of the owner/occupier of the home, or owners who plan to build a home that's approximately the same size, so the burden would not be placed unintentionally on average homeowners.

Please support this excise tax so we can continue to build new affordable housing in the county.