

Letter of Urgent Support for the 7th Street Housing Project

October 8, 2025

Dear Council Members,

I am writing as a small business owner who has spent more than four decades living and working in Northport. Let me be perfectly clear: I am deeply and passionately in favor of the proposed 7th Street housing project, and I refuse to stand by while a vocal few—most of whom barely invest themselves in this community—try to hold our village hostage with tired rhetoric and misleading claims.

Expose the Hypocrisy, Defend Our Working Class

The opposition to this project is little more than a thinly veiled attempt to protect their own interests. They pretend to care about wetlands and the so-called “character” of the area, but every house along 7th Street was built on the very same kind of land. Their arguments ring hollow; this project absolutely fits with Northport’s character. What’s truly laughable is hearing these concerns from people who live in waterfront mansions and only show up for a handful of months each year. They have the privilege of organizing “save 7th street” campaigns, yet they don’t have a clue about the struggles facing those of us who work here all year long.

Small Businesses and Real Residents—Not Vacationers

Let’s call it what it is: opposition to attainable housing is opposition to small business and to the vibrant, local community that makes Northport more than just a postcard. My employees, like so many others, are desperate for housing. The few affordable homes have gone to people like me, business owners who pour their energy into this town. We add more value here than any seasonal visitor or absentee owner ever will—and that’s not an opinion, it’s a fact. The wealthy will keep buying and building here regardless. But if we don’t fight for the working class right now, Northport will become nothing more than a playground for retirees, with no stores, no restaurants, no services—because the heart of the village will have been pushed out.

Face the Real Motives Behind the Opposition

Let's not ignore the uncomfortable truths. I've heard, directly, that some opponents have gone so far as to say, "those people don't need to live so close to the water." What does that mean? Is this really about the environment—or is it about keeping public spaces, like the beach on 7th Street, for private use? It's time to stop letting misinformation and self-interest dictate public policy. The "not in my backyard" attitude must be tuned out once and for all. Council Members, your responsibility is to the people who actually vote, work, and live here—not to those who treat Northport as a vacation stop.

The True Voice of Northport

Why is my side quieter? Because we're too busy working to keep this town alive. The people who would benefit from this project are the backbone of Northport, sacrificing day in and day out for the good of the community. Meanwhile, the privileged enjoy the luxury of organizing against progress while the rest of us hustle to maintain what makes this village special.

It's Time to Act—For the Next Generation

As this goes on the public record, I welcome anyone in the "save 7th street" camp to sit down with me over coffee and explain what they think they are fighting against. I welcome a chance to explain to them the reality of what is facing hard working people in this town. Council Members, you hold the future in your hands. Are you going to listen to those who parachute in for a few weeks, or are you going to do what's right for the next 10, 20, 50 years? Northport's character is defined by its LOCAL people—not absentee landlords or seasonal voices. We need affordable housing, and we need it now, if Northport is to remain a real, thriving village.

It's your duty to see through the noise and stand up for those who truly make Northport what it is. I urge you to act decisively and move this project forward. The very soul of our community depends on it.

Sincerely,

Kristi Fischer

Fischer's Happy Hour Tavern

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