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Hello Planning Commission Members,

Thank you for your commitment to the Town and for your service on this commission. I cannot attend in person due to prior commitments.

Erie needs more income-appropriate housing. In order to maintain a vibrant community, Erie should welcome people of many different socioeconomic backgrounds and professions. If first responders can't afford to live here and there is an emergency situation, there will be a delay in getting help and eventually in getting treatment (because we don't have medical services after 8 pm). If teachers have long commutes, they will not be able to stay late with students and get home to their own families at a reasonable hour. We pay a premium every time we request services from someone who lives in Lafayette or Longmont, or other surrounding communities.

One doesn't have to look far to find stories of towns that went dry because the younger generations chose to move to areas that offered introductory work positions and more affordable housing options. I recall visiting Ireland in the 1980s and cousins telling me that they were having trouble because young people were leaving Ireland for education, jobs, and better opportunities. Eventually, this became unsustainable unless we have an influx of really rich young people. There aren't many of those.

Erie also needs more business opportunities. I have a home office, but also see clients in Longmont because that community is able to support my business and I was able to fill my appointments quickly. A diverse business community thrives and allows a community to withstand downturns in any one market. Imagine what would happen if the bottom fell out of the dental business. Erie would be in trouble!

Let's not be short-sighted and believe the misconception that the wealthy can maintain this community (or any other) on their own. It won't work in Erie and it won't work anywhere else. Let's not put all of our eggs in one basket. Let's support a variety of people, industries, businesses and opportunities in Erie.

Thank you!

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