



05/29/2026

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, I am writing in support of the proposed Rizer Apartment housing project in Blair.

As Chamber Director, I regularly hear from local employers and business owners about the challenges created by our community's housing shortage. Many employees of Chamber member businesses are unable to find suitable housing locally and are forced to commute from surrounding communities, creating ongoing workforce recruitment and retention challenges.

Expanding housing opportunities is essential to maintaining a strong and sustainable community. A healthy housing market includes a variety of options for residents in every stage of life. Apartment developments such as this provide opportunities for young professionals entering the workforce, individuals seeking attainable housing options, and residents looking to downsize while remaining in the community they call home.

Additional housing also helps attract and retain young professionals who will engage in Blair, support local businesses, contribute to new revenue growth for existing small businesses, and establish long-term roots in the community. Many are looking for places where they can begin their careers, become involved locally, and eventually choose to raise families.

At the same time, housing options that support aging in place allow longtime residents to transition from larger homes into more manageable living arrangements, helping open existing single-family housing for families and new residents.

Housing availability remains one of the greatest barriers to workforce development and economic growth in communities across Nebraska, including our own. Projects that thoughtfully expand housing inventory are an important investment in the future of our community and local economy.

For these reasons, the Washington County Chamber of Commerce encourages consideration and support of this proposed development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Niki Ferguson", is written over a faint, light blue circular stamp or watermark.

Niki Ferguson
Executive Director
Washington County Chamber of Commerce