



October 18, 2022

Stoyan Bumbalov, Managing Director  
State Building Code Council  
Washington State Department of Enterprise Services  
1500 Jefferson St SE  
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Stoyan:

We are pleased to provide you with a letter of support for the Washington State Department of Health proposal for the State Building Code Council to enact an emergency rule to adopt the R-4 Occupancy Group.

The Washington State Department of Commerce is an active funding source for the development of behavioral health facilities statewide.

As a specific example, the Department of Commerce provided the primary funding for Cascade Community Healthcare's plans to create a new 16-bed residential treatment facility at 135 W Main St in Chehalis. In 2019, our agency awarded \$735,000 to establish this new substance abuse treatment facility, which was awarded through our Behavioral Health Facilities (BHF) Program. The BHF program funds the construction, renovation, and acquisition of community-based behavioral health facilities across the state. The program's focus is to help the state meet its goal of providing more community-based treatment options so that individuals and families can choose to access care outside of institutional settings. Behavioral health experts generally agree that when individuals and families can access treatment in their community, and closer to their support networks, treatment outcomes are better.

Since 2019, however, construction costs have increased significantly. Allowing Cascade to build under the R-4 Occupancy Group would greatly reduce their overall construction costs and allow them to proceed with building this critically needed facility.

This new residential treatment facility in Chehalis will provide care for local individuals and families that suffer from addiction. It will also bring more healthcare jobs to the area and help local residents re-enter the labor force as their substance abuse disorders improve.

We have been proud to partner with Cascade Community Healthcare on other similar behavioral health projects in Lewis County and we hope to continue our partnership with them by making this investment in behavioral healthcare for the city of Chehalis and surrounding areas.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at [matt.mazur-hart@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:matt.mazur-hart@commerce.wa.gov) or 360-742-9099.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Mazur-Hart", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Matt Mazur-Hart, Community Facilities Manager  
Local Government Division  
Washington State Department of Commerce