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Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 1:50 PM
To: ZZ City Clerk External
Subject: Support Agenda Item 23-1243

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Dear decision maker,

Everyone deserves to age in a home and community of their choosing. Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) are an ideal solution to keep families together — an economic alternative to the high cost of assisted living centers. ADUs help with aging-in-place and living in communities near loved ones. They provide an opportunity to house caregivers close by, in turn helping our loved ones who need caregiving.

That's why I'm asking you to ensure that homeowners have options when looking into suitable housing that fits their life stage by supporting Agenda Item 23-1243.

This proposal allows for a homeowner to meet the housing needs of their parents, adult children, grandchildren, or other loved ones while also providing an option to the homeowner to exercise their property rights to gain additional income. ADUs can assist in providing appropriate housing to essential workers such as teachers, nurses, or first responders, who would like to live in the communities they serve.

Housing options are necessary to address the needs of people of all ages and abilities.

I am a single teacher in the La Crosse School District. Despite 38 years in professional education, I cannot afford a down payment on a modest home or condo of my own.

I am fearing what will happen when I retire. I am clinging to the hope La Crosse County will allow tiny home communities to be developed so I can have affordable, safe housing.

I have experienced the perfect storm of caretaking of Mom, economic downturns impacting my retirement savings, and a salary that has never kept up with inflation.

Will anyone hear me? Or others in my same situation?

Again, I'm urging you to support agenda item 23-1243. Thank you for helping to make La Crosse a true age-friendly community.

Thank you.

Sheila Wirkus
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