

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
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**COUNTY MANAGER**  
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101 South Broad Street  
Brevard, NC 28712

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October 23, 2023

Dear Review Committee:

Transylvania County lies at the heart of the current housing crisis. As many communities across the nation have suffered at the hands of a skyrocketing housing market and the lack of an adequate supply of affordable housing, gateway communities, those that are adjacent to national parks and forest lands, have suffered uniquely. The resulting squeeze of a lack of affordable and accessible land, in areas where over half of the land is held in state or federal hands, while facing a changing workplace, in the aftermath of COVID, which offers the opportunity to a growing number of Americans a chance to work remotely and move to areas such as ours, has placed an undue burden on the communities serving as stewards to our nation's treasures.

According to Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) own metrics, Transylvania County is one of only five counties designated as a 'priority geography,' under the Housing Affordability Factor, where we rank third lowest in the state. The County is one of only four counties falling into two of the three 'priority geographies,' ranking seventh lowest in the state on the Off-pace Factor. In fact, to show just how dire the housing crisis is in Transylvania County, of the thirteen jurisdictions, identified through HUD's metrics, in the three-county region of Buncombe, Henderson and Transylvania, only five places fall within a single 'priority geography.'

It is with this urgency that the Transylvania Board of County Commissioners supports the City of Brevard's PRO Housing grant application. This application breaks down the barriers of extending services to the Extra-Territorial Jurisdictional areas, alleviating the environmental threat of failing septic systems with the infrastructure for growth and development, while serving as a pilot study for these efforts throughout the region. Serving as the County Seat and population center of Transylvania County, the City of Brevard is central to meeting the needs of future affordable housing in Transylvania County. The Board of County Commissioners offers this letter of support to further that mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason R. Chappell".

Jason R. Chappell, Chairman  
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

Cc: File