



April 29, 2009

Letter to the Editor

Shame on the Washington Post for applauding Fairfax County's decision to slash its affordable housing budget in half. (Fiscal Prudence in Fairfax, 4/27/09)

Not just because the Fairfax affordable housing program, funded through a one cent real estate tax, is one of the most successful initiatives in our region, but also because the editorial celebrates consensus building at the expense of good leadership.

During these tough times, working together is indeed important. But sacrificing a hard-fought program that's working well and efficiently? That's just fiscal imprudence.

Building consensus is *not* building for the future. Ensuring an ongoing supply of affordable housing is critical -- not just for low- and moderate-income families like teachers, service workers and seniors -- but to our area's long-term economic vitality as well.

This budget cut is not just a poor fiscal decision; it's a short-sighted social decision. The current economic crisis will pass, but the need to ensure affordable homes will not.

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