

BRATTLEBORO AREA AFFORDABLE HOUSING

November 20, 2008

Dear Employer,

re: employer assisted housing

As you know, here as elsewhere, housing is increasingly problematic for low- and moderate-income people, whether owners or renters. Wages, even in two-earner households, have not kept up with housing costs. It is less and less possible for landlords or builders to offer housing that's affordable and make a profit. Moderately priced housing, as a result, is in short supply.

So it has seemed to us that we ought to revive an old idea: employer help with housing, but in a new, more modest form. Not rows of homes built by factory owners, and not the lavish assistance some corporations give new executives, but small-scale help at critical times for ordinary employees.

On the back is a proposal for an employer assisted housing program for a company with 40 employees. It is similar to programs that have benefited other businesses. But it is only an example -- a program appropriate for your company might look quite different.

We believe the benefits of such a program to your employees would be disproportionate to its cost. And it could help with recruitment, retention and morale.

We're promoting this idea because you could play an important role in addressing housing needs. We have no other interest. But we'd be happy to look with you at what other employers have done. And, if it were useful, we could try to help devise a program for your business.

Respectfully,

Gary Goodemote

Gary Goodemote
President