An editable Word version of this letter can be downloaded by visiting: **www.growunioncountyohio.com/affordability**. Once the letter is complete, please scan and email to **jstanford@unioncounty.org**.

[PLEASE PRINT ON COMPANY LETTERHEAD]

[DATE]

Mr. Cory Hixson, President
Union County Chamber of Commerce
227 East Fifth Street
Marysville, Ohio 43040

Dear Mr. Hixson:

On behalf of the [BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION], please accept our thanks and appreciation for the Chamber’s leadership on important issues impacting our community. It is clear we now find ourselves at the cusp of another emerging crisis: the availability and affordability of housing.

Access to housing is an important issue that has now reached a critical point, especially as businesses across Union County seek to attract and retain talent. We celebrate Union County’s recent growth, but many local businesses, large and small, and across all industry sectors, are facing a critical need for talent. Without ample and diverse housing options, we cannot grow our local labor force. At the same time, new housing opportunities generate more activity for existing small businesses and fuels the development of new businesses and start-ups.

[OPTIONAL: explain how your business/organization has been impacted by the housing issue. Examples may include difficulty attracting employees, growing your business, etc.]

We understand that there are many causes of our housing shortage and affordability issues. But perhaps most concerning is a growing sense of opposition to new residential development and the questioning of the need for new housing. As a community, we must understand that residential growth will allow us to stem “brain drain” and the loss of young, middle-income adults to other communities.

Union County must continue to grow in order to succeed. If left unresolved, these challenges will threaten the long-term economic vitality of Union County by making it more difficult to attract and retain talent. Furthermore, a growing population is key to improving the profitability and sustainability of Union County’s many small businesses.

We urgently ask community leaders and residents to embrace new residential development and realize the need for all types and price points of housing. We must work together, as a united community, to find and implement creative and short-term solutions to our current housing shortage and affordability issue. To this end, we will support any community-driven activities that make our economy stronger, our workforce more diverse, and our residential development more inclusive.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[SIGNATURE]

[NAME]
[TITLE]