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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Everett, WA]– The Board of Commissioners for the Housing Authority of Snohomish County convened a Special meeting on September 30, 2024, during which they approved the appointment of Laurie Olson as the new Chief Executive Officer, effective December 2, 2024.

Laurie Olson brings nearly 30 years of public service experience and a wealth of leadership to the organization. In her role as a public funder, Olson facilitated the development of affordable housing by coordinating project financing and supporting initiatives that expanded access to affordable units. She directed efforts to implement policies that enhanced affordable housing options, working closely with staff and stakeholders to ensure resources were effectively allocated and projects were successfully realized. Olson has direct experience in managing financing the development of affordable housing, securing project financing, acquiring land and units to enhance affordable housing options, and directing policy implementation alongside staff.

“I’m excited to return to the Snohomish County community, known for its strong spirit of collaboration and commitment to solving complex challenges together. It’s an honor to succeed Duane Leonard, whose leadership has left a lasting impact on affordable housing in our community. As HASCO steps into this pivotal moment, we have a responsibility to address the housing needs of today while shaping a more affordable future for tomorrow. I look forward to partnering with our dedicated staff, residents, community leaders, and elected officials to expand access to affordable homes and create lasting opportunities for all in Snohomish County.”

Her appointment as CEO represents her return to the Snohomish County community, where she worked at the Snohomish County Office of Housing and Community Development. While there, she led the Affordable Housing Production Plan, identifying needs and effective strategies for Snohomish County.

Most recently, Laurie has served as the Director of Capital Investments for the City of Seattle, managing a capital investments budget, leveraging \$2 billion in assets. In this role, she oversaw the development of over 4,000 housing units, collaborated with the Seattle Housing Authority to strategically allocate and direct hundreds of vouchers throughout the city, and successfully acquired more than 1,000 market-rate units within three years.

“Laurie brings the experience and leadership needed to guide HASCO into its next phase of growth. We look forward to continuing our work with community partners to expand affordable housing opportunities throughout Snohomish County.,” stated Commissioner Chairperson Luke Distelhorst.

Olson has also been an active committee member of the ULI Affordable and Workforce Housing Product Council and has advocated for housing issues on various boards and advisory committees. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Seattle Pacific University.

She will succeed Duane Leonard, who is retiring from HASCO at the end of 2024. Leonard has been instrumental in shaping the agency's direction since 1994, contributing to a significant increase in affordable housing throughout the county.

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