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January 25, 2024

Mr. Terry Snapp, President
Englewood Arts
10901 E Winner Road
Independence, MO 64052

Dear Mr. Snapp (Terry):

The challenge of affordable housing and providing older residence new opportunities to “age in place” is why AARP supports local housing initiatives that allow for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs).

As small houses or apartments that exist on the same property lot as a single-family residence, ADUs play a major role in serving a national housing need. This traditional home type is re-emerging as an affordable and flexible housing option that meets the needs of older adults and young families alike.

Examples are so called granny flats, in-law suites, or backyard cottages and can be a freestanding structure, an apartment over a garage or a basement apartment.

AARP has worked with communities across the nation to adopt these local ordinances including in Kansas City and St. Louis.

We have had the opportunity to review the proposed Englewood overlay ordinance in some detail including a technical review by our national staff working on affordable housing. We are impressed with the ordinance as drafted and with the community engagement efforts to date.

AARP supports the overlay ordinance and looks forward to sharing our views with the City Planning Commission and the City Council. We will also work to engage the 14,836 AARP members who live in Independence and ask them to participate in Commission and City Council meetings regarding the Zoning overlay ordinance.

We look forward to working closely with you, seeing this adopted and educating the community about the new housing opportunities it will provide in the Englewood neighborhood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CEichelman".

Craig S. Eichelman, State Director
AARP Missouri

cc: Michael Baxley, Englewood Arts Executive Director