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To: Toronto Planning and Housing Committee

Suite Additions is a consulting and design company focused on helping homeowners make better use of their properties with additional units. We strongly believe in using secondary, laneway, and garden suites to provide affordable housing and help create stronger local communities. To date, our company has been involved in various capacities on over 260 projects in Toronto and the surrounding areas to add affordable housing units with secondary suites and other densification strategies.

I strongly feel that allowing the housing option of garden suites in the Neighbourhoods area of Toronto (known commonly as the "yellow belt") would be a great initiative to help tackle our affordability crisis.

Data shows that cities across Canada and the US that have permitted this type of housing have benefited tremendously. These include places such as Edmonton, Vancouver, Portland, Seattle, and all of California.

The benefits of Garden Suites include:

1. Being a form of gentle density in low-rise residential zones without changing the look and feel of the neighbourhood, while helping to re-populate some areas in decline.
2. Utilizing existing utilities and city services, thereby reducing the burden on city resources compared to greenfield developments.
3. A form of affordable housing for young adults and other groups priced out of market rate housing.
4. A great option for seniors to age in place and multigenerational households to live together on a property.
5. Environmentally conscious option to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from further urban sprawl.
6. Brings needed population in less dense areas to help local businesses thrive and create local job opportunities.

In light of the current pandemic, this option would be especially beneficial for vulnerable groups such as seniors.

For these reasons and many more, we strongly recommend that the Planning and Housing Committee to request the Chief Planner and Executive Director of City Planning to prepare a report with recommendations to permit Garden Suites so they can be implemented in an efficient and effective manner to benefit all residents of Toronto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Tran", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andy Tran
Suite Additions Inc.