



June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

Mayor and Members of the Blair City Council,

I am writing to express strong support for the proposed Rizer apartment complex development in Blair.

Blair's economy remains strong, with unemployment at historic lows. While this reflects a healthy and growing community, it is also creating a significant constraint for employers across the entire local economy—access to an available and affordable workforce. Housing availability and affordability have become critical barriers to attracting and retaining employees.

Employers across multiple sectors are encountering difficulty filling positions because potential workers are unable to find suitable housing within the community. This is limiting business performance, constraining growth, and putting long-term economic momentum at risk.

The development of additional apartment housing directly addresses this challenge. Increasing the availability of attainable housing will strengthen workforce stability, enable employers to meet demand, and support the continued growth and competitiveness of the Blair community.

This project represents an important investment not only in housing, but in the overall health and sustainability of Blair's economy. From my role leading operations at one of the area's largest manufacturing sites, I see firsthand how access to local, affordable housing directly impacts our ability to attract and retain the workforce needed to sustain operations and support continued growth.

Sincerely,

Matthew Gutzmann  
Facility Manager