

City of Blair  
Blair, NE

6/21/2026

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TIF and LB840

Dear Blair City Council Member,

As a long-standing employer in Blair, Evonik is proud to be part of a community that has demonstrated steady economic growth, strong industrial investment, and a commitment to long-term stability. Our site has benefited from this environment and, in turn, we remain deeply invested in the continued success of Blair and Washington County.

Alongside this progress, one challenge has become increasingly clear: the limited availability of workforce housing. Over the past several years, the supply of quality rental housing has not kept pace with job growth. As a result, a growing portion of the workforce that supports Blair's industries must commute from neighboring communities.

From an employer's perspective, this has real and measurable impacts. The ability to attract and retain skilled employees is directly influenced by the availability of housing within a reasonable distance of the workplace. It also affects quality of life for employees and their families, contributing to longer commutes and reduced community engagement.

This challenge is evident across multiple levels of our workforce. We rely not only on permanent employees but also on interns, early-career professionals, and specialized temporary staff who support critical operations and projects.

For many of these individuals, access to safe, reliable, and reasonably priced housing is a deciding factor in whether they can accept or continue employment opportunities in Blair.

We understand that new housing developments can raise valid concerns about maintaining the character and livability of Blair. We share those priorities. Thoughtful, well-planned housing—aligned with community standards—can strengthen Blair by supporting working families through reduced commuting times and through a more connected community.

Tools such as Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and the LB840 program are important in making these developments feasible. When used responsibly, they help address financial barriers, encourage private investment, and support balanced, sustainable growth.

Evonik supports the careful use of these tools to expand housing opportunities and ensure Blair remains a strong place to live, work, and invest. We appreciate your leadership on this important issue and stand ready to support efforts that benefit the community as a whole.

Sincerely yours,



Paul Caldwell  
Site Director