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May 21, 2025

Mr. Richard Hutto
Executive Director
South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority
300-C Outlet Pointe Blvd
Columbia, SC 29210

RE: Letter of Support – Riverbend Trace Apartments

Dear Mr. Hutto:

I am writing to express my full support for the proposed Riverbend Trace Apartments, a 60-unit affordable housing development located at 1771 St. Matthews Road in Orangeburg County and within my Council district.

Access to safe, decent, and affordable housing remains one of the most critical challenges facing our residents, particularly those with low to moderate incomes. The Riverbend Trace development will be a meaningful step forward in addressing this need. It promises not only high-quality, affordable housing but also a well-planned site that enhances our local infrastructure and supports long-term community growth.

This project aligns well with Orangeburg County's goals of expanding housing opportunities and improving the quality of life for our citizens. I am especially pleased that the development is being proposed in a location with close proximity to schools, employers, and major transportation corridors—elements that are essential for families seeking stability and upward mobility.

I commend the development team for their thoughtful approach and am confident this project will serve as a positive and lasting asset for District 5.

Sincerely,

Janie Cooper-Smith
Orangeburg County Council Member, District 5