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End COAH

Undoubtedly, New Jersey is in the midst of an affordable housing crisis. Legal reform is no longer a dream or aspiration. Change is indispensable and although our national economic crisis can hurt us, the continued adherence to state-mandated affordable housing policies will ruin us.

The plight of affordable housing has digressed to the point that the entire system is unworkable, irrational and impracticable. Something has to be done about this situation immediately.

First, we should establish a fair obligation for all municipalities. Simply claiming numbers are fair does not make them so. The analysis should consider infrastructure, environmental and planning concerns, economics, public input and common sense.

Second, we must fix our laws. COAH's rules are mercurial and a moving target. The legal challenges facing COAH's rules are daunting and cannot be overlooked.

Finally, we need a greater public awareness of the issues affecting affordable housing. The public needs to be aware that our affordable housing system is broken. It does not work. It needs fixing. Change must begin in Trenton. Moreover, the agency responsible for overseeing affordable housing, COAH, has failed miserably.

There is no way around it; COAH must be dismantled and abolished.

— Mayor Jonathan L. Hornik,
Marlboro