From:	Laura Brakke
To:	Council@co.whatcom.wa.us
Cc:	Jack Louws; Karen Frakes; Eric Hirst; Gary Davis
Subject:	RE: Comments on AB 2013-180 (Planning Commission recommendation regarding Rural Element compliance)
Date:	Saturday, May 18, 2013 11:17:12 AM

To the Whatcom County County Council,

I am writing to encourage you to stop land-use planning using property owners desires for 'highest and best use' as defined by maximum profit on land speculation. Taking your direction from Jack Swanson as a private land use attorney has no place in a public process. The Growth Management Act is a Law.

I have been involved as a private citizen in this Rural Update for years. I am involved because I do believe in following laws. If the law reads, to create a LAMIRD there must be development on a parcel when the law was enacted, then I expect our government officials to act accordingly.

Land use decisions by property owners, letting zoning be dictated by individual desires is what lead to the inconvenient placement of a Fertilizer Plant next to housing and schools in West, TX. Zoning is not a private property 'right'. It is a tool municipalities use to prevent harm and make efficient use of limited and valuable utilities.

The Planning Commission recommendations to ignore the GMHB decisions are NOT in the interest of the Public, but benefit only a few. I do not authorize any more of my tax money to be spent to defend certain people's right to profit from land speculation.

Time, energy, and money would be better spent on supporting small organic farms and farmers.

Sincerely,
Laura Leigh Brakke