

CLEARANCES	Initial	Date	Date Received in Council Office:	Agenda date	Assigned to:
Originator: Assoc. Gen. Contractors		3/1		3/8/94	Open session (non-scheduled)
Division Head:				3/22/94	P&D/Council
Dept. Head:					
Prosecutor:					
Purchasing/Budget:					
Executive:					

**SUBJECT:**

Resolution stating the Whatcom County Council's policy to encourage enhancement of a jobs-based economy

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Letter from Associated General Contractors, dtd 3/1/94  
Resolution

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

*Please complete sections of box as appropriate & explain the item below.*

Related County contract #:	Should Clerk schedule a hearing? NO / / YES / / Requested date:
Amount budgeted for this item/project: \$	Is it (or will it be) within budget? YES / / NO / / (Please explain below)
Budget line item number(s):	

Please see letter and resolution for details. A similar resolution was proposed, then withdrawn, in July 1993.

**ORIGINATOR'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Recommend passage of the resolution.

**COMMITTEE ACTION TAKEN:**

**COUNCIL ACTION TAKEN:**

3/22/94: Council approved the resolution with amendments.

SPONSORED BY: Consent

PROPOSED BY: Associated General Contractors

DATE: March 22, 1994

RESOLUTION NO. 94-025

STATING THE WHATCOM COUNTY  
COUNCIL'S POLICY TO ENCOURAGE ENHANCEMENT  
OF A JOBS-BASED ECONOMY

WHEREAS, a jobs based economy is an economy in which the bulk of the employment is created by the production, transport, or sale of goods, or by the supplying of services required by firms producing, transporting, or selling goods; and

WHEREAS, "quality of life" for most Whatcom County citizens depends primarily upon the economic self-sufficiency provided by living wage jobs; and

WHEREAS, the economic ability of Whatcom County's citizens and families are affected directly by the affordability, convenience, quality, and variety of living; and

WHEREAS, findings in the state of Washington's Growth Management Act include a statement that "economic development is an essential public purpose." (RCW 43.31.005); and

WHEREAS, the state of Washington's Growth Management Act further finds that, "In order to increase job opportunities and revenues, a broader and more stable economic base is needed"; and

1           WHEREAS, the state of Washington recognizes in its economic workbook on the  
2 Growth Management Act that, "Local economic policy and initiatives will play an ever  
3 increasing role in shaping the global competitiveness of industry;" and

4           WHEREAS, Whatcom County Council Ordinance 93-024 established County  
5 Wide Planning Policies which include statements addressing the importance of the  
6 economy in maintaining quality of life in the county; and

7           WHEREAS, the county's Overall Economic Development Program, adopted by  
8 the Council of Governments through authorization by the County Council and accepted  
9 by the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration as being  
10 Whatcom County's economic plan, demonstrates that "government attitude" is seen as  
11 one of the most important factors in a manufacturer's decision to locate; and

12           WHEREAS, Whatcom County is currently in a position to benefit greatly in terms  
13 of attracting new business as a result of recent major international agreements; and

14           WHEREAS, the Council believes that a goal of Whatcom County's governing  
15 authorities should be the removal of unnecessary delays, indecision, and uncertainty in  
16 the business environment; and

17           WHEREAS, other economies in the county including government, education,  
18 social services, and others cannot be healthy economies in the absence of a strong jobs  
19 based economy; and

20           WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Community Development has  
21 provided a checklist for counties desiring to consider how to integrate their economic  
22 interests and state Growth Management Act planning requirements in a publication

1 titled *Economic Development Through Growth Management, Making the Vision Real*;

2 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WHATCOM COUNTY**

3 **COUNCIL THAT:**

- 4 1. It is the policy of the Whatcom County government to assure that restrictions on  
5 the ability of private enterprise to establish, conduct, and maintain a healthy jobs-  
6 based economy be removed and that the ability of private enterprise to establish  
7 and maintain a healthy jobs based economy be enhanced by the actions of  
8 government, provided that the County does not compromise the quality of life of  
9 its citizens; and
- 10 2. All departments of the Whatcom County government shall revise rules,  
11 regulations, findings, and legislation to reflect a common theme of positive  
12 encouragement of the establishment and maintenance of a healthy jobs-based  
13 economy in Whatcom County; and
- 14 3. A theme of enhancing the jobs based economy of Whatcom County be an on-  
15 going theme common to all new legislation, rule making, and implementation of  
16 County policies; and
- 17 4. This effort begin immediately, though it is recognized that full implementation  
18 will come about gradually as the County adopts a vision for itself and rewrites its  
19 Comprehensive Plan; and
- 20 5. The County Council and the County Executive should work together with  
21 representatives from private enterprise and the community to assure that the

1 following questions are answered when a rule, regulation, policy, or other action is  
2 proposed for adoption or reviewed for revision purposes:

3 a. Will this action increase or decrease the creation or retention of  
4 jobs?

5 b. Will this action have a positive impact on the affordability of  
6 housing?

7 c. In situations where regulation is necessary to protect the  
8 environment, what are the burdens to owners of commercial, industrial,  
9 residential, or other property, and is there any way to reduce or mitigate that  
10 burden?

11 d. Will this action or policy be viewed positively by business leaders  
12 outside the county who may wish to locate their businesses in the county?

13 6. The analytical review will include a written checklist or explanation procedure to  
14 assure a written record that is accessible to the public, as it seeks to understand  
15 and influence the decisions made on its behalf by the County Council, the County  
16 Executive, and the departments of county government, and

17 7. The checklist provided by the state of Washington in its publication, *Economic*  
18 *Development Through Growth Management*, pages V-1 through V-S be completed,  
19 with appropriate comment, by the Whatcom County Planning Department as part  
20 of its final presentation to the Council on adopting a Comprehensive Plan for  
21 Whatcom County in accordance with the mandates of the state of Washington's  
22 Growth Management Act, and

- 1 8. A nine-member committee, consisting of three industry representatives, four  
2 business and development organizations representatives and two citizen  
3 representatives, be formed by the Council to suggest to the Council and the  
4 County Executive ways in which the goals of this Resolution can be effectively and  
5 economically implemented in a timely manner, and
- 6 9. Nothing in this Resolution be taken as weakening the County's commitment to  
7 the conservation of Whatcom County's environment or to the enhancement of  
8 Whatcom County's other economies, and
- 9 10. The Council wishes to work positively and actively with the County Executive in  
10 implementing this Resolution.

11 PASSED this 22nd day of March, 1994.

12  
13 ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

14   
15 Ramona Reeves, Clerk of the Council

  
Robert Imhof, Council Chair