

INTRODUCTION DATE: 8/10/2004

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-054

**AUTHORIZING WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO PURCHASE
DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS ON HOWARD AND JUDITH HOLZ PROPERTY**

WHEREAS, Whatcom County government recognizes agriculture as a major contributor to the local economy and a high quality of life for Whatcom County citizens; and

WHEREAS, The Growth Management Act and the County Comprehensive Plan support the retention of agricultural lands of long term commercial significance and encourage the use of innovative techniques to do so; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance #92-002 enacted a property tax levy known as the Conservation Futures Tax as authorized by RCW 84.34.230 to provide a funding source to assist in acquiring open space, wetlands, farm and agricultural land, and timber land; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance #2002-054 authorized the creation of a Purchase of Development Rights program for agricultural land within Whatcom County, and

WHEREAS, Ordinance #2002-054 established a Purchase of Development Rights Oversight Committee to provide review and assistance to the PDR Administrator, and

WHEREAS, Resolution # 2002-040 adopted the PDR Guidelines Document which includes specific direction for program administration and conservation easement acquisitions, and

WHEREAS, Resolution # 2003-025 affirmed the ranking of the applicants from Round 1 and authorized the PDR Administrator to proceed with acquisition process, and

WHEREAS, The Holz property has been appraised and a conservation easement has been drafted which meets the requirements of both the Whatcom County Agricultural Purchase of Development Rights Program and the Federal Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program, and

WHEREAS, Matching federal funds will be provided by the Natural Resource Conservation Service from the Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program to cover 50% of the purchase, and

WHEREAS, The landowners have agreed to the offer price and conservation easement conditions.

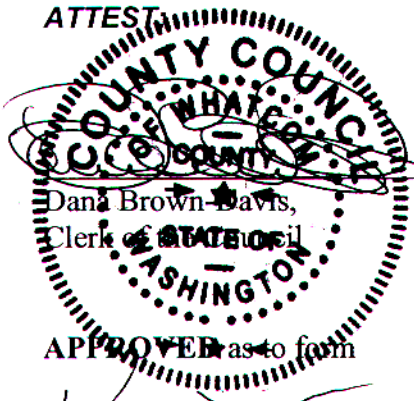
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that :

1. The Executive is authorized to purchase and the development rights for the full appraisal amount and to expend any additional funds necessary to cover other purchase related costs.

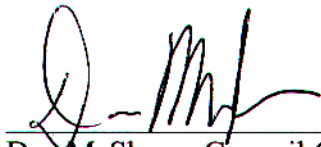
APPROVED this 10th day of August, 2004.

**WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

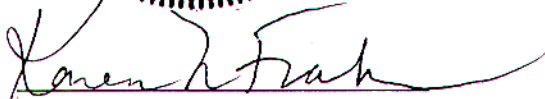
ATTEST



Dana Brown-Davis,
Clerk of Council


Dan McShane, Council Chair

APPROVED as to form


Karen Frakes, Civil Deputy Prosecutor