

**From:** Rick Dubrow <rdubrow@a1builders.ws>  
**To:** <rboxx@co.whatcom.wa.us>  
**Date:** 2/11/2009 4:19 PM  
**Subject:** Please select the lowest allowable population number

Dear Whatcom County Council and Planning Commission  
<mailto:rboxx@co.whatcom.wa.us> ,

Although I'm a part of the development community, the health and well being of my larger community - our County - is more important to me. While the reasons are many, allow me to share the three most compelling reasons to choose the lowest legal number:

1. Whatcom County is losing its rural areas to sprawl at an alarming rate, and a lower population projection will support agricultural preservation.
2. Planning for high population growth commits the county and its municipalities to provide an unaffordable level of government services and infrastructure.
3. Whatcom County citizens strongly favor slower growth.

Please choose as low as you can go and help us retain this great place we know and love.

Thanking you in advance,

Rick Dubrow, First Hammer

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"The problem that confronts us is that every living system in the biosphere is in decline, and the rate of decline is accelerating. There isn't one peer-reviewed scientific article in the past twenty years that's been published that contradicts that statement. Living systems are coral reefs, they're our climate stability, forest cover, the oceans themselves, aquifers, water, the conditions of the soil, biodiversity--they go on and on as they get more specific, but the fact is there isn't one living system that is stable or is improving, and those living systems provide the basis for all life." - Paul Hawken