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Subject: Whatcom County Planning and Growth Issues

Hi, I'm writing to advocate a balanced approach to planning and development in Whatcom County. Please adopt a moderate, realistic growth projection to guide future development. Those in developed areas will have to accept additional growth and infill while those well away from transportation, utilities and other infrastructure will have to maintain a rural profile. Some individuals and organizations have adopted extreme positions, advocating little or no growth, negative growth, or virtually unlimited growth. I do not agree with such one-sided approaches. Instead, I appreciate the relatively middle-of-the-road, planned growth we have experienced. We do need to plan and accommodate growth. We do not need to set very low limits, barcade Interstate 5, and price growth so that we get only "the right kind" of in-migration. I am getting pretty tired of the upscale folks who move here and join the no-growth movement to stop others from moving here...and then form organizations to study affordable housing! By and large both ends of the spectrum need to be heard and represented. But we need to represent reality as we forecast growth realistically, rather than adopting a very high or very low estimate to further the agenda and viewpoints of anti-growth or pro-growth individuals and groups. We need to accurately assess the issues we will be dealing with as a community to those born here and who chose to move here. Do you recall the reference a planner made to the "piss-ant' approach to planning? Imaging a bunch of ants riding on a log moving rapidly downstream in a river.... holding meetings and making regulations to determine where the log is going? Thanks for taking time to listen.

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"I love it when a plan comes together" - George Peppard, The A Team, Born 10/1/1928, Detroit, Died 5/8/1994, LA

Concerning Plans: "open-air daylight creatures like us...called to plot and scheme and hide against the frozen silliness of the world" - Eden Phillpotts, Born November 4, 1862, in Mount Aboo, Rajputana, India; died December 29, 1960, at Broad Clyst, near Exeter, Devon, England;