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PETE KREMEN  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

To County Executive and County Council Members,

Hello, I am Lee Breakey. I live at 4185 Chance Road off the Mount Baker Highway. I am in, what the city of Bellingham designates, Urban Growth Area. Many of my family members also live in this area called "The Dewey Valley". We just finished fighting off the city from annexing us. You are probably aware that the city council voted June 15, 2009, to not annex us by a 5 to 2 vote. We bought our property in 1980 and built a house here in 81, 82. It was zoned R5 - 1 house per 5 acres. A number of years later, I became aware that we were now UR4 - 4 units per acre. I called the county to see how this could have happened without me (the property owner) knowing about it. I was told that legally they only had to put a legal description of the entire area in the newspaper and did not have to contact the 50 or 60 families affected. I thought at the time, and still do, that this constitutes theft. You take a family's property - change the use and value of it without contacting them. So that is how we came to be in the Urban Growth Area. This latest vote by the city council showed some wisdom - there was pressure on the council members to annex because of a petition that showed a majority of people wanted to be annexed. But, this petition was another preplanned deception. The city planners had attached the Dewey Valley annexation to the Trickle Creek development annexation. The Trickle Creek development is located on McLeod Road by the Mount Baker Highway. When the city supplied water and sewer to the development, they drafted a requirement which would be attached to the title of each house (all 70 of them) that before you could buy the house, you had to sign a "No Protest" against annexation. So the city had a captive 100% petition from Trickle Creek which they then attached to Dewey Valley which easily out voted the valley residents. As you are aware - the valley has Squalicum Creek running through it, we also have Toad Creek which goes through my property, my Dad's property, my son's property, then my nephew's property. All of us are on acreage; my father has livestock on his 10 acres. We do not want to be in the city or Urban Growth Area. I have read that the County Council is re-thinking the U.G.A. boundaries. We feel that the Dewey Valley area is still very rural and we would appreciate being returned to the county and our original zoning.

Thank you,

Lee Breakey

