

RECEIVED

JUL 6 - 2009

PETE KREMEN
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**7-2-09
1100 Ross Rd.
Bellingham, WA 98226**

**Pete Kremin
311 Grand Ave. Suite 105
Bellingham, WA 98225**

Mr. Pete Kremin,

My name is Chad Clark, and I am purchasing property from my grandfather, R. J. Breakey. The forty acres my grandfather owned and wanted to sell to his grandchildren was in R5. Through no choice of our own the county put his property into "ag overlay" and I am in the process of buying an eleven+ acre piece - #380309 270171. I am currently having my building plans engineered and will be applying for a building permit in the next month.

For the past year I have been involved in trying to stop the annexation of Dewey Valley into the city. On June 15,2009, the city of Bellingham decided NOT to annex the Dewey Valley into the city. It was a 5/2 decision! I believe the only way to protect our property from being incorporated into the city is to be proactive and ask, no BEG you to consider taking the Dewey Valley out of the Urban Growth Area and rezone it back into a R5 status.

As stated in the newspaper, 7-2-09, "...according to Whatcom County planning staff, all the population growth planned for the rural parts of Whatcom County by 2024 was already there." Please consider taking the Dewey Valley out of the Urban Growth Area. Thank you for your time and serious consideration.

Sincerely,



**Chad A. Clark
Property owner**

enclosure

7-3-09
1080 Ross Rd.
Bellingham, WA 98226

Pete Kremin
311 Grand Ave. Suite 105
Bellingham, WA 98225

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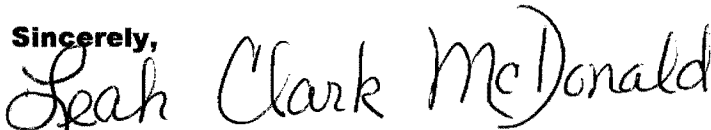
Mr. Pete Kremin,

My name is Leah Clark McDonald. I currently live in the Virgin Islands but am purchasing two acres (tax#380309 232150) from R.J. and Annabel Breakey, my grandparents. I plan to make a permanent move to the Bellingham area within the next seven years and live close to my family where my children can grow up knowing their grandma, aunts, uncles and cousins. I actively have fought the city of Bellingham to keep Dewey Valley a part of Whatcom County.

After a year long battle, on June 15, 2009, the city of Bellingham decided NOT to annex the Dewey Valley into the city. I feel this is only a temporary victory and within several years we will once again be faced with another annexation petition. The annexation was denied for several reasons; first it was not financially feasible, several pipeline criss cross the area and the fact that we have a number of wetlands, two streams - Toad Creek and Squalicum Creek, wooded areas, pasture and farm land of which the owners will never develop.

I write this letter as a request to petition you to remove the Dewey Valley and surrounding areas from the Urban Growth Plan and rezone the area into R5. If formal paperwork needs to be done to accomplish that; please send it as soon as possible in care of my Grandfather; to 4150 Dewey Rd. Bellingham, WA 98226. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



Leah Clark McDonald
Property owner

Leah Clark
Suite 26. Port of Sale Mall
St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. 00801

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Bellingham, WA 98226

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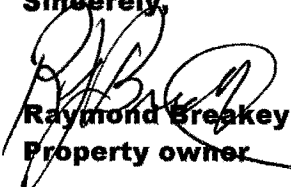
Mr. Pete Kremin,

My name is Raymond Breakey, and have owned property in the Dewey Valley since 1962. Approximately ten to twelve years ago the county changed the zoning in our area to an urban growth area (no personal notice given). My family and I have fought multiple times with the city to stay as we are - part of Whatcom County.

Recently, June 15,2009, the city of Bellingham decided NOT to annex the Dewey Valley into the city in a 5/2 decision! The city council had been presented with a 80%-85% petition primarily from the residents of the Trickle Creek Housing development to become part of Bellingham City. We believe the annexation was denied for several reasons including the fact that this valley is the true definition of a rural area; with wetlands, two streams - Toad Creek and Squalicum Creek, wooded areas, pasture and farm land of which the owners will never develop.

We are very satisfied with the current fire and sheriff protection we receive, we use well water - the best in the Bellingham area, and just want to be left alone. We are currently UR4, but would love to be R5 once again as we were about 12 years ago. Please consider taking the Dewey Valley out of the Urban Growth Area. Thank you for your time and serious consideration.

Sincerely,


Raymond Breakey
Property owner

enclosure

WHATCOM VIEW

Time is now to protect our important rural life

CATHY LEHMAN

Think our rural areas are growing too quickly? You're not alone. Sixty-two percent of respondents to Whatcom County's Values & Beliefs survey conducted in late 2008 agreed that our rural areas had grown too fast over the past ten years. And quite frankly, you're right.

Between 1990 and 2008, more people moved to the rural areas of Whatcom County than any part except Bellingham. In fact, The Bellingham Herald reported in January of this year that according to Whatcom County planning staff, all the population growth planned for the rural parts of Whatcom County by 2024 was already there.

So where does that leave us now?

In Washington state, most land use protections are covered under the Growth Management Act, adopted by the state Legislature nearly 20 years ago. The GMA requires fast growing counties to protect the character of their rural areas and prevent sprawling suburban type development in order to protect water quality, working farms, working forests, rural lifestyles and our environment.

Not only has Whatcom County allowed zoning in the past that divides up our rural lands into small, urban-style lots that encourages growth of these areas — we have yet to correct the problem. It is estimated that almost 7,000

more rural lots can be created in Whatcom County under current zoning, making places like Nugents Corner on Mount Baker Highway, Wisner Lake surrounded by prime farmland, or areas along Chuckanut Drive under continued threat of becoming more and more dense and developed in the future.

Until now.

In early 2005, as required by the GMA, Whatcom County updated its comprehensive plan — the county's blueprint for growth — and its zoning codes. Because the plan didn't adequately protect rural Whatcom County from large, high density developments, Futurewise challenged parts of the plan and zoning codes to the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board.

The Hearings Board sided with Futurewise, and rather than appeal the decision, Whatcom County chose to comply with the board's demand that they fix its plan to comply with state law.

The county is undertaking a public process to update the rural element to comply with the GMA, and is considering a number of measures to bring its comprehensive plan and zoning into compliance, including:

► Revising the rural land use designations in the comprehensive plan.

► Changing the non-compliant zones to provide for appropriate rural densities and uses.

► Designating LAMIRDs with clear boundaries using appropriate criteria to determine these boundaries.

Futurewise Whatcom is participating in this process to ensure that the county plans will protect our rural areas rather than promote their overdevelopment.

We want to be sure that the rural zoning adopted maintains rural character, protects water quality, and ensures that Whatcom County remains a place where we all want to live.

Done right, the rural element update will provide many benefits to Whatcom County including increased protection for working farms and forests, reduced future costs to tax payers, increase protection for Lake Whatcom and Bellingham Bay, and reduced traffic congestion and climate impacts.

Please attend the Whatcom County Planning Commission meeting next Thursday, July 9, at 6:30 p.m. in County Council Chambers to speak out in support of "Keepin' it rural, Whatcom style!"

Our local decision makers need to be reminded that yes we do value keeping rural land rural in Whatcom County, and now is the time to protect it.

Cathy Lehman is chapter director of Futurewise Whatcom is the local chapter of statewide land-use advocacy group. Learn more at futurewise.org/whatcom.