

September 17, 2009

Whatcom County Executive Kremen
Whatcom County Council
Whatcom County Planning Commission

Re: Whatcom County UGA Update – Birch Bay UGA
Executive Kremen Revision Dated Sept 9, 2009

As the current president of the Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce and our more than 100 current business members, we appreciate that with this revision all the work that went into the Birch Bay Community Plan, the result of thousands of hours of conscientious study by hundreds of community members, staff and approved by the Whatcom County Council in 2004, is recognized.

The revision re-instates some of the area for convenient neighborhood commercial nodes accessible to the bulk of the population – and away from the scenic beach front. The intersections of Blaine Road with Birch-Bay Lynden and Alderson Roads are components of our "Plan".

Many companies and individuals have invested time and in some cases large amounts of money and planned their futures around this "Plan", do not allow it to be for naught. The Birch Bay UGA **should not be reduced** for us to achieve the "Plan" while protecting our priceless shorelines and other critical areas..

Additionally, while the UGA review is underway you should consider removing the provisional zoning in the area surrounding Blaine and Alderson Rd's as outlined in Executive Kremen's letter of Sept 9. This provisional zoning has proved difficult to implement based on conditions in the ordinance. Please repeal Section 2 of Ordinance #2004049 with the revised Birch Bay UGA plan.

My request is that the Planning Commission and Council leave the Birch Bay UGA intact at this time and allow us to develop per our Birch Bay Community Plan as approved by the Whatcom County Council in 2004.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this important matter.

Lisa Guthrie
President, Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce 2009
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