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October 8, 2009

Whatcom County Council
311 Grand Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225

Whatcom County Planning Commission
Northwest Annex
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dear Councilmembers and Commissioners:

Testimony you received from the Lummi Nation, Whatcom Farm Friends, Larrabee Springs and others all support the realistic notion that Bellingham should be allocated growth so that rural lands develop much more slowly.

As Mr. Stalheim has noted in various comments and reports, Bellingham cannot accommodate its allocated growth within its existing boundaries and that adequate land supply in urban areas is important for prevention of rural development.

Bellingham has the capital facilities required by law, which many other areas of the County clearly lack.

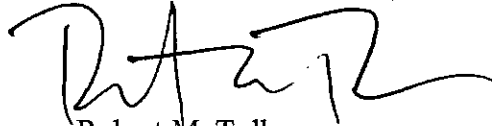
Recent analysis by staff of Bellingham land capacity, even assuming very aggressive infill goals and plans, shows that Bellingham needs some additional urban growth area.

The Larrabee Springs land has long been identified as appropriate for development and is supported by urban service capability. Inclusion at this time in Bellingham's urban growth boundary will allow Bellingham and Larrabee Springs and the community to cooperate on the master-planning, including timing, of a new neighborhood for Bellingham. A good range of housing choices in Bellingham is critically important in the reduction of rural sprawl and population dispersion.

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We are ready to discuss our proposals, goals and capabilities at any time. We can help the County get into compliance as quickly as possible

Very truly yours,
LANGABEER & TULL, P.S.



Robert M. Tull

RMT: ao
cc: client
Whatcom County Planning and Development Services
Whatcom County Executive, Pete Kremen
Rebecca Craven