

From: Council
To: Blystone, Kate; Boxx, Becky; Council Members; Rebecca Craven
Date: 11/2/2009 8:55 AM
Subject: Fwd: Reduce Blaine and Birch bay UGAs

>>> "Don Montfort" <dmontfort@comcast.net> 10/30/2009 10:28 PM >>>

Honorable Council Members:

I urge you to reduce the Blaine and Birch Bay UGAs to rational size until larger growth areas become necessary, if ever.

It has become the single justification for the wildly expansive Birch Bay UGA: "some community members spent a lot of time drawing it up".

Here is why I want to see you approve the proposed reduction of the Birch Bay UGA:

- in a representative democracy, it is your duty to listen carefully to constituents, but to make the decision that is in their best interest, despite their good intentions;
- the Steering Committee's UGA was unduly emphasized by large developers and land brokers for their own financial benefit;
- the Kask Report, which became the singular reference for the community's UGA recommendation was commissioned and paid for by one of those developers, a clear appearance-of-fairness issue;
- the conclusions in the Kask Report are deeply flawed, and unsupported even by its own data and research;
- the huge UGA's of both Blaine and Birch Bay do not comply with the letter or the spirit of the growth management law;
- the claims of widespread community participation and buy-in to the Steering Committee's recommended UGA was highly exaggerated. opposing views were not given adequate opportunity or standing.

I urge you to reduce the Blaine and Birch Bay UGAs to rational size until larger growth areas become necessary, if ever.

Don Montfort

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