

From: Council
To: Blystone, Kate; Boxx, Becky; Craven, Rebecca
Date: 11/3/2009 8:38 AM
Subject: Fwd: Urban growth areas

>>> "Henry Bierlink" <hbierlink@wcfarmfriends.com> 11/3/2009 8:37 AM >>>
I understand you hope to make significant progress on determining the appropriate size of the urban growth areas today. Unfortunately I am unable to be there this morning due to a long standing meeting of the Natural Resources Market workgroup. I hope to be there this afternoon.

If there are any questions about Farm Friends perspectives on urban growth areas I'd be happy to address them. But I believe we have been quite clear in stating that:

1. We believe that your job is to advocate for wise resource protection policies (including ag land) and not simply provide the cities whatever they want.
2. That said, we understand that restricting cities growth boundaries too much will result in perverse results (i.e. more rural growth). A wise balance is needed and that must be your goal.
3. We question the Executive's recommendations which decreases Bellingham's growth rate and increases the growth rates for the small cities, many of which are surrounded by ag land. This plan runs directly contrary to the values that the community has consistently expressed.

We are willing to participate in any discussion or forum you may arrange that would further debate over these concerns. Best wishes on a tough job!

Henry Bierlink, Executive Director

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