

From: Council
To: Blystone, Kate; Boxx, Becky; Council Members; Rebecca Craven
Date: 11/9/2009 8:09 AM
Subject: Fwd: Urban Growth Area redesignation

>>> Wayne Youngquist <w.youngquist@comcast.net> 11/9/2009 7:56 AM >>>
Dear Whatcom County Council Members

re: UGA changes

You are about to take a vote on an extremely important issue concerning future direction of the county concerning where new people in the county will be encouraged or allowed to live. You have a great responsibility to shape our county for the future. You are encumbered with the responsibility to conserve our natural resources and manage them for our long term benefit. The main one being our ability to feed ourselves. We are an area that is increasingly becoming urban and there is extreme pressure to destroy our crop land and turn it into housing units. **You must supply an alternative for this need for housing which means encouraging the building of our major town (Bellingham) up into the hills.** Building in the hills and preserving the flatlands for farming is an age old process that has only been 'uprooted' in the modern era. I live in the Yew Street Road area that you are contemplating removing from the UGA. This doesn't make any practical sense to me. We have a new school, a great area for families, we are far from the farmland with no prospects for ranch or crop production, its a beautiful area for people to live. Yes there are challenges to be environmentally sound during development, but it certainly can be done. By removing these potential home sites from development, you force people to search elsewhere, and the only viable elsewhere is north of town and into the flatlands. I support infill in Bellingham and increased population density in urban villages for other people, but personally, I would never want to live there.

Please, do our grandchildren a favor and vote to support urban development up into the hills.

Sincerely,
Wayne C. Youngquist
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