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**To:** <pds@co.whatcom.wa.us>, <council@co.whatcom.wa.us>, <dstalheim@co.whatcom.wa.us>, <citizensunite@aol.com>  
**Date:** 5/17/2008 1:51 PM  
**Subject:** We Need a Grocery Store  
**Attachments:** Planning Dept. Letter.doc

As a resident of the Foothills Area I am submitting the attached letter in support of the UGA and associated Commercial overlay. It baffles me that my government might be considering denying a large and remote community the right to reasonable access to food that is so taken for granted in other areas. I hope you will give this letter full consideration.

Linda Dorsett

EnVision Consulting

360-599-2900

David Stalheim  
Whatcom County Planning and Development Services  
5280 Northwest Ave.  
Bellingham, WA 98266

5-15-08

Dear Mr Stalheim,

We are writing in support of the Draft Subarea Plan as submitted by the majority of representatives from the Foothills area. Specifically, we support the UGA and the associated commercial district overlay and ask you to do the same. Without the commercial district, the citizens of this area will never be able to develop ourselves as an independent community capable of providing local jobs. A grocery store is critically important for a community of our size. We believe that the proposed location can provide a central core of services for our community without negatively impacting our highly valued rural character. We want services located near the population center while keeping our Scenic Byway less developed for the enjoyment of both locals and visitors. This dual track not only meets local service needs, it supports the widest variety of job opportunities.

Current oil prices make it abundantly clear that we have bigger things to worry about than too much traffic on the Mt. Baker Highway. We could have a whole community with no services that cannot afford to access basic necessities. Can you imagine a situation in which government decided there could be no grocery stores in Whatcom County, forcing you to drive to Mt. Vernon or Smokey Point to buy food for your family? Our residents are forced to drive 30 to 45 minutes to purchase healthy and relatively affordable food. We have to use an ice chest to get our groceries home safely. Frozen foods often thaw even with that precaution. Now add in the cost and difficulty of transportation. Could you bring home all the groceries your family needs on a bus? Without a grocery store, how does a community anchor other businesses? How can a community attract local jobs?

Many in our community have a very clear vision for what this area can become. That vision has been accurately and carefully woven into the draft of our Subarea Plan as submitted by the majority of committee members. While some people may not be inclined to take the Kendall area seriously because of its reputation for being a drug haven, how can our community have any chance of getting beyond this if we are denied access to basic needs and, therefore, local jobs? Sheriff services are valuable, but real change comes with access to local jobs. Local employers will not be attracted to a community without services as basic as groceries. We have much work ahead of us to create the jobs which protect our rural feel, but that work is already starting.

We object to the inaccurate comments submitted by the few who are trying to oppose any growth and development in our area – especially when many of them live far from the area of greatest impact. The Foothills are filled with creative and intelligent people fiercely dedicated to the intelligent and responsible development of the community we love. We are striving to

protect our rural feel while providing a better lifestyle for our residents. Please support our efforts by approving the the UGA and the associated commercial district overlay

Sincerely,

Linda Dorsett & Christopher Babin  
Residents of Silver Lake area