

David Stalheim, Director
Whatcom County Planning and Development Services
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226

May 28, 2008

Re: Foothills Subarea Plan

Dear Mr. Stalheim:

This letter is in response to the foothills subarea plan currently under SEPA review at county planning. Please include this correspondence as part of the public record in this matter. I fully support the Foothills Subarea Plan as presented by the FSPAC majority and urge you to do the same as appropriate, based on the findings of the SEPA review and SEIS.

I would like to address the following for your consideration at length;

MAJORITY vs. minority

The Subarea committee conducted a lengthy public process extending nearly 2 years (43+ meetings) and contemplated a voluminous amount of research and professional opinion prior to making their recommendations. I feel it is inappropriate to allow a "minority" group to undermine the public process and the "majority" recommendation by petitioning government directly to reject these recommendations.

I feel that the minority report has received an inordinate amount of consideration and reflects inaccuracies and outright misinformation at numerous levels, from its assertions regarding the adoption of a legally indefensible population model to its outright misrepresentation of the various elements involved in the recommended reconfiguration of the UGA boundaries, to its claim that the committee recommended rezoning a developers property to UR4 which is a blatant misrepresentation of the facts and recommendations made by the committee.

To me it seems that the minority members have attempted to subvert the process in an effort to forward their alternative agenda which appears to share ideology with a well financed private interest corporation called Friends of the Foothills whose Board of Directors consists in part of a known Developer (Malibu

Associates/Estates – PDS applicant 2004-2006), A retired Corporate Attorney (Minority FSPAC member) and a Senior Construction Manager for a large construction firm.

It is my opinion that the report submitted by the minority FSPAC members is a smoke screen to forward an entirely independent plan that is supportive of an elitist agenda to disenfranchise an established population center to the detriment of the public welfare.

In the public survey mailed to Foothills residents during the FSPAC planning process, 76.3% of all respondents indicated that they wanted to “Continue the type of single family and rural residential Patterns we now have in the Foothills” and yet a small group appears to support changing this pattern significantly by removing the UGA without regard to the needs of nearly 4,000 residence currently inhabiting this population center.

I have significant questions and concerns regarding the kind of planning this group may have in their long term vision for my community and question the propriety of their influence in this process given their primary purpose, as publicly stated, of opposing specific development applications currently under consideration and pending approval within the planning area.

I have spent many years in public service to my community and actively participated in the subarea planning workshops, public meetings and survey’s to make my vision known and I do not support the idea of having my participation neutralized by a minority group with deep pockets who are trying to silence the majority by appealing directly to government.

It is not easy to balance work, family and community - and I feel the effort and time my family and I have invested in the public process and our community should receive the recognition and weight it deserves.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments

Respectfully,
Rebecca Lynn Boonstra
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