

January 9, 2008

David Stalheim, Director  
Whatcom County Planning & Development Services Dept.  
Northwest Annex  
5280 Northwest Drive  
Bellingham, WA 98226-9097

WHATCOM COUNTY  
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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RECEIVED

Re: SEP07-181, 2007 Draft Foothills Subarea Plan

Dear Mr. Stalheim:

I recently saw the notice of the Determination of Significance regarding the 2007 Draft Foothills Subarea Plan and want to state for the record that I fully support the County preparing an Environmental Impact Statement in relation to the Subarea Plan. I went to almost all of the Subarea Committee meetings and there are a few aspects about the proposed Subarea Plan that I am concerned about.

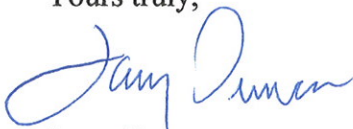
I think that the population projections proposed by the majority of the Committee are too high. Rather, I think that the County should adopt the populations proposed in the Minority Report submitted by three committee members.

I am worried about the increase in traffic that will occur as a result of the majority's proposed population projections. The Subarea Plan does not address how the impact on local roads will be mitigated, nor does it address the noise and air pollution that will accompany the increased traffic. I am also concerned about the water quality in the Foothills, especially in the Columbia Valley, where the water table is quite shallow.

I believe that the County should prepare a new Environmental Impact Statement at this time and that it is inappropriate and negligent for the County to rely on a likely outdated Environmental Statement prepared over ten years ago. Please change the Determination of Significance to state that the County must prepare a stand-alone Environmental Impact Statement, rather than preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement that relies on the 1996 Comprehensive Plan EIS.

Please make sure that the County addresses these issues and that they are properly mitigated before the Subarea Plan is recommended for adoption. Thank you.

Yours truly,



Larry Duncan

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Deming WA 98244