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LONG RANGE
PLANNING DIVISION

Leif Swanson
7525 Wheeler Rd.
Maple Falls, WA 98266

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

1/06/08

Dear Mr. Stalheim, et al:

I am writing with regards to the 2007 Foothills Sub-area Draft Plan (FSDP).

I support PDS in issuing a DS and in asking for more information on potential adverse impacts on the environment. I am concerned, however, that the scoping of the SEIS is relatively narrow. Important changes have occurred since 1996, some of which are: Significant population increase, the recognition of global warming and, in particular, the listing of two salmonids in the Nooksack watershed as threatened or endangered. The complex interactions between land use, geology, surface and groundwater quantity and quality and fish habitat need to be very carefully addressed by impartial professionals. I feel that a full EIS specific to the foothills Sub-area would be appropriate.

My general concern with the FSDP is that the population projections chosen are too high. I support the use of Professor John McLaughlin's methodology for population projection.

My specific concerns with the FSDP pertain to its treatment of the Columbia Valley UGA.

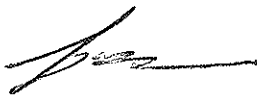
1. I feel that the sub-area committee acted with poor judgement in adding a town center to the UGA. The Kendall town center is not fully developed and no land supply study has demonstrated the need for more commercial zoning.
2. I believe that the conversion of 40 acres of rural forestry to light industrial is not consistent with county policy. Additionally, the high amount of light industrial acreage proposed is inconsistent with all calculations and recommendations by consultants. Some area residents feel that the objective of moving RF to LI is to ease its conversion to UR4 when inevitably this LI acreage remains unutilized.
3. The East County Regional Resource Center should be sited in Kendall where it will better serve the entire sub-area.
4. The site proposed for the East County Regional Resource Center and the Columbia Valley STC are identical to part of Aiki Homes' Balfour Village

development proposal. This amounts to a tacit endorsement by the committee of a specific development. I feel that this is wildly inappropriate.

5. The population densities, both existing and proposed, for Columbia Valley were folly from the beginning. Paradise-Peaceful should not have been permitted, and would not be permitted today. Columbia Valley is an inappropriate site for a city, and trying to grow our way out of the problem will only make it worse. I am in favor of converting the Columbia Valley UGA to a LAMIRD.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leif Swanson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Leif Swanson

Cc: Martin Blackman, PDS
Matt Aamott, PDS
Ken Mann, Chairman, WCPC