

RECEIVED

September 11, 2008

SEP 11 2008

LONG RANGE
PLANNING DIVISION

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

RE: Public Comment - Foothills Sub Area DSEIS

As an active and engaged member of the Mount Baker Foothills Community, living in the Rural County outside of the Columbia Valley UGA I have weighed the options and alternatives presented for consideration in the DSEIS published on August 1st 2008 and find that I am compelled to support the only alternative that can achieve or approximate the goals and diverse needs of our unique community.

I support Alternative No. 1 without the Mitigation Maps

I attended and participated in the public hearing on September 4th 2008 held at the Kendall Elementary School and was dismayed at the level of hostility and intimidation that confronted the public as they arrived to give their testimony.

I am very shy and not a very accomplished public speaker and it was with great personal conviction and resolve that I was able to stand before that mob with their signs and badges and present my simple bullet pointed observations for the public record.

I was so nervous when I completed my comment that I immediately left the hearing to avoid attracting any unwanted attention from the organizers of the No Growth Demonstration. I was disheartened to see that several of my peers and members of the community with whom I am not even acquainted were not able to find a similar level of confidence to present their prepared comments and I wonder what level of representation persons with opposing or dissenting views may find under such circumstances.

I was a regular attendee of the FSPAC public meetings and workshops for nearly two years and cannot recall a single time when the public was confronted with such a biased and intimidating scene. The members of the FSPAC held a well organized and civil public dialogue during the entire process and this is what I have come to expect.

The Following comment was read into the record at the public hearing held on September 4th 2008 at the Kendall Elementary School.

- Analyzing impacts between alternatives that use differing planning periods yields an obvious disadvantage to the alternative with the longer planning period.
- This approach appears to create a disproportionate level of potential impacts to the alternative with the longer planning period and tends to discredit the analytical validity of the entire document.
- This apparent inconsistency is compounded by the fact that each alternative utilizes progressively lower population projections.
- I believe that a more accurate analysis of potential impacts would have contemplated all three scenarios using a range of low to high projections within a consistent planning period.
- Based on these observations I believe it would be prudent to revisit these "alternatives" to ensure they are reasonable and defensible comparisons that are supportive of the necessary conditions required to achieve or approximate the intent of the Sub Area plan as presented by the Foothills Sub Area Committee in October 2007.

I want to thank you for this opportunity to submit this information for your review and encourage Whatcom County to protect and preserve the basic rights of its citizens to free, meaningful and unhindered participation in the public process as it goes forward.

Sincerely,

Carolyn M. Ferrer
6851 South Pass Road
Maple Falls, WA 98266