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LONG RANGE
PLANNING DIVISION

September 8, 2008

Matt Aamot, Senior Planner
Whatcom County Planning and
Development Services Dept.
Northwest Annex
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226-6907

RE: SEP 07-181; 2007 Draft Foothills Subarea Plan; SEIS

Dear Mr. Aamot:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a comment letter.

Whatcom County has spent years trying to avoid spending funds to provide services for the residents of Columbia Valley; services due them by statute, services they deserve. The County prefers the Urban Growth Area option as it allows incorporation; yet further evidence that the county wants to rid itself of all responsibility toward the citizens of our foothills. But the tax base of the Columbia Valley will never meet the requirements necessary to qualify the area for incorporation.

Conversely property owners in the foothills face ever-increasing punitive raises in their property taxes and further degradation of their rural lifestyle.

Establishing a Lamird for the foothills (option 3) not only would reduce the tax burden for Whatcom County residents and foothills property owners but would still provide opportunities for funding to help with some of the area's problems.

I strongly urge that option 3 be chosen.

Regards,



Jo Anne Harrison
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