

June 10, 2010

My name is Jan Eskola and I am a member of the Foothill Subarea Plan Advisory Committee and one of the three people who wrote the Minority Report in October of 2007 and the subsequent Analysis of Population Projections submitted in November of 2007.

I hope that you have read both reports.

The draft Foothills Subarea Plan may be a start for the future of the Foothills, but it does not provide the protection which the Foothills needs in order to protect the rural character and natural beauty that all residents of Whatcom County cherish.

Planning for more growth without an in-depth analysis of carrying capacity does not serve to maintain rural character. Although the Advisory Committee balanced population projections against available land and did look at current water and sewer connection potentials, there was little analysis on the impact on or drawdown of the Columbia Valley Aquifer, the increase in Level of Service traffic and road issues on the subarea roads that will likely be caused by increases in population.

You may hear tonight how the majority of the Advisory Committee tried to pacify the minority members in many areas and how the minority members voted by consensus on numerous issues. I am here to tell you that the really important issues; such as concurrency, population projections, industrial land and rural character issues are vital elements that the minority members still object to in the current draft plan. The minority members also still believe that the Columbia Valley area should be a LAMIRD. There is no reasonable expectation that this area will become an urban center for many, many years.

Whatcom County is not required to adopt any Foothills Subarea plan and to adopt this flawed plan would be worse than having no plan at all.

Thank you for listening.

