

January 25, 2009

Dear Planning Commission,

Thank you for extending the period of public comment. After carefully reviewing all of the various reports and plans for the Foothills area, I strongly favor adopting the recommendations of the Foothills Sub-Advisory Committee (majority report). I am encouraged by the SEIS findings that all environmental concerns that can be mitigated.

As an active member of the Foothills community, I believe that zoning which gives our area the best chance to develop our own social and economic core is essential for the survival of this area. Maintaining our rural character is also vitally important and I believe that our Sub-Area Advisory committee has addressed both these issues to the best extent possible.

I am hoping that the future Foothills community will consist largely of rural areas that attract tourism but have minimal growth. The heart of our community will be outside of tourist visibility but will provide our residents with local services, employment opportunities and social meeting spaces. Growth will be funneled around this core to minimize the need for driving. This configuration could greatly minimize our current dependence on Bellingham. This will, in turn, greatly decrease the time and gas required to conduct our daily affairs of living. Many of us can and will establish local businesses as soon as the zoning creates the opportunity.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter that is so vital for our future.

Sincerely,

Linda Dorsett

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