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I'd like to start off by urging the council members to carefully consider the Minority Report submitted with the Foothills Subarea Plan. The authors raise some good points. I'd further urge the council to consider option 3 for the Columbia Valley.

I'd like to explain a bit, on a visceral level, why I'm opposed to further development in the Columbia Valley:

I deliberately chose to live 27 miles out of the city. I knew when I moved here what the bus schedule was, and that the line ended at Kendall. I knew where the pharmacy was. I knew where the doctor's offices and dentists were. I knew where the high-speed internet access ended. None of these things were any secret.

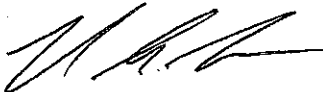
I chose to move to Maple Falls because it was rural. I chose the property I live on because the only house I see from my windows is over ½ mile away. I don't have curtains on my windows – I don't need them. I love that I can work in my garden, and tend my animals, and go entire days without seeing anybody. I socialize when I want to, then I retreat to my own little world. I expected to have to be self sufficient when I moved here – clear my own culvert, maintain my own well, plow myself out...

If I wanted to live close to other people, I would. If I wanted to live close to major services, I would.

When I think about the proposed developments and services in the Columbia Valley, I start to feel like the city I deliberately moved away from is moving to me. Just how far out do I have to move to stay out of the city? I already live just about as far East as I can while staying in Whatcom county.

I realize there are lots of people living in the Columbia Valley who want services. The thing is, they all made a choice to live outside of the city as well. Why does their desire to bring services in trump my desire to stay rural?

Thanks for your consideration.



Jennifer Halliday