

**O'Donnell, Mary Beth**

---

**From:** Ann Foster <annfoster5093@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 10:09 AM  
**To:** Cnty 2016 Comp Plan  
**Subject:** Comments on the 2016 update options to the Growth Management Act

7 2 4 3 5 5 \*  
CP16#0463

Hello:

I am commenting on the options under consideration to update the Washington's Growth Management Act in Clark County. I am requesting that these comments be placed in the record.

I am an ordinary citizen of this County, and like most citizens, have a limited understanding of the process that is taking place currently to update the urban growth plan that is required by Washington's Growth Management Act. I can't speak to the technical issues involved, but I can speak to the values in this County that I see at risk.

My interest, and those of my community, is to support productive agricultural lands and businesses. In keeping with this, my interest is also to nurture and encourage existing productive agricultural lands and businesses...to appreciate their importance and value.

I am the organizer of two farmers' markets in Clark County. In this capacity, I am constantly focusing on local farmers who market their products directly to customers, either at a farmers market, through a CSA, a farm stand, a U-pick and usually a combination of some or all of these opportunities. It is these folks who depend on all of us to buy from them, accommodate their needs, and encourage their growth. These are farm businesses and food businesses that produce food for us to eat. These are businesses who hire year-round, and when they sell locally, those dollars stay within the local economy.

These are the folks whose kids are in FFA or 4-H and learn the passion of raising farm animals, growing heirloom tomatoes or planting and nurturing the obscure species of tree that will be beneficial to the earth's oxygen for generations to come and learn to preserve the environment by using sustainable growing practices. These are not hobbyists.

I support Option 1. I do not want Clark County to reduce the AG-20 minimum lot size and density from 20 to 10 acres, nor do I support Clark County changing the Forest-40 zone minimum parcel size from 40 acres to 20 res. Changing minimum lot sizes within rural zones clearly appears to be a maneuver that gets around the protections now offered to agricultural lands (as required by the GMA) and is unilaterally in the interest of large

land-owners who see residential development or “light industrial” development in their future, all at the risk of their neighbors’ land – and existing farms and farmlands.

Keep urban growth within the current urban growth boundary. We need to protect and grow our working farmlands – not destroy them.

Best regards,

Ann Foster

Organizer, Salmon Creek Farmers' Markets

Board member, Washington State Farmers Market Association

Member, Clark County Food System Council

President, North Salmon Creek Neighborhood Association

14011 NW 27th Avenue, Vancouver, WA

360-574-5093