

March 25, 2015



Community Planning
Clark County
PO Box 5000
Vancouver, WA 98666-9949

To Whom It May Concern,

We write this letter in regards to the recent correspondence we received in the mail from the Clark County Planning Committee regarding the future proposed property zoning of Clark County.

While this is and will always remain a very controversial topic, both my husband and I are pro-growth, and pro-land protection advocates at the same time. It is eminent that our population is going to grow at a continuing rapid pace. We love our land, we love being a part of growing timber and making certain our small forest remains healthy and thriving for future generations. We also need to maintain a healthy balance regarding income for our family to survive. Thus, it is necessary to establish a reasonable and responsible balance and get back lost zoning property rights of the not so distant past.

This is a new time, a new economic environment. Wouldn't it be a good thing, if a farmer who has farmed here in Clark County for years to have the ability to break off small parcels of his/her land in their methodology? They have farmed and logically managed their own land for years; they must know how to divide without causing environmental harm. After all, most farmers are environmentalist. Have you looked at the detailed hard work surrounding you each time you drive to the north end of our County? This didn't happen overnight, nor did this happen by itself, it's been happening for decades.

Why is it larger land owners seem to have fewer rights in dividing land they have owned for years? We have an 80 acre tree farm, and we are zoned 20 Ag. Across the street, our neighbors are on small 1 and 2 acre lots. When you look at the map of Clark County, large farms are clumped together and are put into their own category. As for cluster developments, they have in the past clearly benefited both the land owner and the consumer wanting to live "out".

Some will argue to never break up large farms so that people can drive to the north and enjoy the country side. I cannot argue with wanting to have this luxury, but who pays this price? Eventually, farmers will be like the dinosaurs, gone. Large zoning regulations have made it near impossible to pass on the family farm to future generations. Large, vast plots of land are difficult to afford as our population rapidly grows and expands north. If more people could own 5 and 10 acre parcels, perhaps we can build a new model of farmer. Perhaps more of us would be able to live and thrive on the land just as our forefathers did.

What if our County created a program to implement and encourage small farmers of Clark County? Hold seminars; have a coop of farmers of the past and young people who are interested in growing crops for a healthier future? Imagine our County building and supporting a small entrepreneur "farmer model". A person can support many crops of food and materials on a five or ten acre parcel with proper management. Implement a program and assist in training and supplying access to tools to get people moving and motivated in a pro-growth, partnership with our existing farmers and beautiful land.

We support and strongly favor F - 10 and AG - 5 designation zoning, thus, giving back the rightful zoning ownership of the land owners in Clark County.

Respectfully,


Valerie and Dave Larwick

April 1, 2015



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