



Oct. 20, 2015

Clark County Council  
PO Box 9810  
Vancouver, WA 98666

**Testimony in Support of Planning Commission's Preferred Alt.  
2016 Comprehensive Growth Management Plan Update**

Dear Chair Madore and Council Members:

My name is Sue Marshall. We have a 20 acre family farm in the Ridgefield area. With our daughter, we are beginning a third generation of farming on our land. The current zoning is AG- 20 and we would like to retain that designation as a means of protecting the long term use of our land as an agricultural resource to the community and as a family legacy.

The Planning Commission's recommendation was advanced after very thoughtful deliberation and I urge you to adopt this as your preferred alternative.

The most important elements of their recommendation is the rejection of proposed upzoning of agriculture and forest resource lands and further division of rural lands that were proposed in Alt. 2 and Alt. 4.

**Why larger acreage farms are important in Clark County**

- The per acre cost of farmland goes up with smaller acreages making farmland prohibitively expensive.
- Large blocks of land dedicated to farming provide more long term stability, sustainability and resilience for agriculture and protects a farmers' long term investments in equipment and crops.
- Large block farming can support necessary infrastructure – shared storage, equipment, processing, marketing etc. There is an important economic cluster of supporting jobs that occurs with larger scale farming.
- Dry land farming is a fact of life and definitely feasible in Clark County but it requires larger acreage to be economically feasible with a more limited variety of crops. As new water rights are not available it behooves us to preserve the remaining large acreage farms for diversity of crops and the future resiliency of food production in the county.

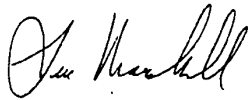
**Problems with Alt. 2 and Alt. 4**

- Population assumptions do not support Alt. 2 and 4 and creates more housing than is needed.
- Development occurs disproportionately in the rural areas
- These alternatives are a PERSCRIPTION FOR SPRAWL
- An addition of 8,220 wells and septic systems (Alt. 2) and 12,400 for Alt. 4 plus needed infrastructure will have a cumulative impact that we cannot afford environmentally or economically and will change the character of rural Clark County.

The Planning Commission carefully considered their recommendation to you in light of legal requirements of the Growth Management Act and well aware that there have been past challenges that the county could not successfully defend. They arrived at a recommendation that deserves your support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sue Marshall  
Co-owner and Operator of Baur's Corner Farm  
4316 NW 169<sup>th</sup> Street  
Ridgefield, WA 98642

## Schroader, Kathy

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**From:** Tilton, Rebecca  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2015 10:48 AM  
**To:** Orjiako, Oliver; Schroader, Kathy  
**Subject:** Oct. 20 Comp Plan Comments  
**Attachments:** Alexander\_Valerie\_10-20-15 Comp Plan Comments.pdf; Allen\_Milada\_10-20-15 Comp Plan Comments.pdf; Boynton\_Stephen and Lissa\_10-20-15 Comp Plan Comments.pdf; Edwards\_Ron\_10-20-15 Comp Plan Comments.pdf; Levanen\_Carol\_10-20-15 Comp Plan Comments.pdf; Levanen\_Carol\_10-27-15 Comp Plan Comments.pdf; Marshall\_Sue\_10-20-15 Comp Plan Comments.pdf; Rasmussen\_Susan\_10-20-15 Comp Plan Comments.pdf; Reisbick\_Margaret\_10-20-15 Comp Plan Comments.pdf; Starke\_Gretchen\_10-20-15 Comp Plan Comments.pdf; Tweet\_Margaret\_10-20-15 Comp Plan Comments.pdf

Hello,

Here are your copies of written testimony submitted during the Oct. 20 Comp Plan hearing. There's also one from Carol Levanen that was submitted on Oct. 27 during general public comment.

Also, I've mailed a packet of information to Cindy Holley (sign-in sheets, written testimony, maps, etc.).

Thanks and have a great day. :)

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