

Schroader, Kathy



From: Orjiako, Oliver
Sent: Monday, November 09, 2015 10:10 AM
To: Euler, Gordon, Alvarez, Jose; Anderson, Colete, Albrecht, Gary, Hermen, Matt, Kamp, Jacqueline, Lebowsky, Laurie, Lumbantobing, Sharon
Cc: Schroader, Kathy
Subject: FW: letter to Clark Cty Commissioners - For the Public Record and the 2016 Comprehensive Plan update
Attachments: Citizens United letter to Clark Cty Commissioners docx
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

FYI and for the record Thanks

From: Carol Levanen [<mailto:cccuinc@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Sunday, November 08, 2015 2:59 AM
To: Stewart, Jeanne; Mielke, Tom; Madore, David; Orjiako, Oliver
Subject: Fw: letter to Clark Cty Commissioners - For the Public Record and the 2016 Comprehensive Plan update

Clark County Citizens United, Inc P O Box 2188 Battle Ground, Washington 98604 E-Mail cccuinc@yahoo.com

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Lee Witter <lkwl@comcast.net>
To: cccuinc@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, November 2, 2015 11:28 AM
Subject: letter to Clark Cty Commissioners

Dear CCCU Inc (Carole and Susan)

I am preparing to send a modest check to your organization today and have also drafted a letter for your corrections and additions to send to the County. Please advise how I could strengthen my point which is that rural small family business survival is harmed by the imposition of arbitrary zoning.

Thanks for all your good work,

Lee Witter

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<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

AN ARGUMENT AGAINST IMPOSING RIGID ZONING OF LARGE LOTS IN RURAL CLARK COUNTY.

To Clark County Commissioners and Planners:

My maternal great grandfather John Fletcher came to Clark County in 1870 to establish a prune ranch along the Columbia River. He was elected County Assessor twice before the turn of that century so we can assume his neighbors felt him to be knowledgeable and serious about good land use. One or more branches of our family has been paying Clark County property taxes on resource land (I believe without interruption) for about 145 years. I mention this family history in the hope that the Clark County Commissioners will understand how deeply I feel that sustained managed agricultural and forestry use of the land is important. To me, this means that rural property owners need flexibility in determining lot sizes in order to make the best use of their rural land.

The last couple of generations of our family have been practicing family forestry in the Chelatchie Prairie and Dole Valley areas and we hope to pass that business on to our kids and grandkids if the County does not make it impossible for us to keep this small family business operating by imposing arbitrary parcel sizes and declaring "non-conforming" our long-established parcels. Those large parcel sizes undoubtedly assist you in meeting GMA averages and make for neat and tidy planning but they often don't make business sense for the property owner.

A bit more history applies here: for many years I have lived on and helped manage my husband Louis Kahn's working tree farm in King County, and for the 15 years since his death I have been sole manager. That tree farm near North Bend WA is zoned Rural Forest: one house every five acres. Family forestry works better works better with such realism and flexibility. Having the option of some smaller parcels makes assigning certain parcels to different family members for them to manage for forest health and timber production much more efficient than the large parcel sizes Clark County imposes on family forests. Family forestry means hands-on, knowledgeable use of timber land and supports the local job market while industrial forestry means huge clear cuts and flooding. Many families in the Yacolt/Amboy area have been around longer than ours and they tend to cherish and understand the land.

I feel that King County Government wants our family to stay in forestry and I feel that Clark County Government wants to use our forest land and most of the rest of Eastern Clark County to take land value from through unrealistic zoning or to dump unwanted projects on----or both.

Take "Send the Beast East" for example. If all the people of Clark County had initially united and insisted that BPA BURY the proposed I-5 Corridor 500 kilovolt transmission line, I think that BPA would have made that their preferred alternative. Instead, urban Clark County just said "Send the Beast East" even though BPA's powerline will impose more senseless land use patterns on rural landowners. I have already had one timber stand fire resulting from PacifiCorp's powerline arcing and I surely hate to see another powerline built through the old Yacolt Burn under climate change conditions.

Family forestry is facing many uncertainties and is declining just as we are starting to realize how important carbon sequestration by forests is going to be to help mitigate global warming and acidification of the oceans. Bark beetles, drought conditions, forest fires, timber poaching, powerline intrusions-----all of these are on the increase. Clark County should take the long view and assist rural families in sustainable use of rural land, not make it much harder for us to manage that resource wisely.

Sincerely,

Patricia Lee Witter AKA Lee Witter Kahn

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