

O'Donnell, Mary Beth

CLERK OF THE BOARD OF CLARK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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CP16#0427

From: Tilton, Rebecca
Sent: Wednesday, November 05, 2014 11:21 AM
To: Mielke, Tom; Madore, David; Barnes, Ed; Orjiako, Oliver; O'Donnell, Mary Beth; Silliman, Peter
Subject: Written Comments re: Comp Plan Update
Attachments: Carol Levanen comments_110414.pdf

Hello,

Please find attached written testimony received during the public comment portion of the Board's November 4, 2014 hearing from Carol Levanen.

Thank you,
Rebecca

Rebecca Tilton, Clerk of the Board
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Clark County Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 5000
Vancouver, Washington 98666

October 28, 2014

Re: Rural Representation and the 2016 Comprehensive Plan (For the public record)

In RCW 36.70A.035 Public participation, the GMA directs counties (1) *The public participation requirements of this chapter shall include notice procedures that are reasonably calculated to provide notice to property owners and other affected and interested individuals....* In RCW 36.70A.140 Comprehensive plans - Ensure public participation, it states, *Each county and city that is required or chooses to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 shall establish and broadly disseminate to the public a public participation program identifying procedures providing for early and continuous public participation in the development and amendment of comprehensive land use plans and development regulations implementing such plans. The procedures shall provide for broad dissemination of proposals and alternatives, opportunity for written comments, public meetings after effective notice, provision for open discussion, communication programs, information services and consideration of and response to public comments.*

Ridgefield, with 4,763 people, La Center, with 2,800 people, and Yacolt, with 1,566 people, (2010 US Census), have been able to give early and continuous participation in the Comprehensive Plan update. A representative from each city sits at the table with commissioners to discuss their wants and needs. Clark County Citizens United, Inc. representatives, speaking for approximately 6,000 rural landowners, equal to Ridgefield's and La Center's population combined, come forward in the process and are told to speak to Futurewise, a Seattle environmental group, to discuss what to do with rural lands. Are rural people invisible in Clark County? Do those living in three fourths of the county land mass, not count? The GMA, often discusses the importance of property owners participation, yet staff and the commissioners discussions have centered on the cities.

The proposals brought by staff ,for three alternatives presented in the SEIS, were created long before rural people could consider possible changes to the 2016 Comprehensive Plan. Staff hangs their hat on the Rural Task Force and a survey that went to a select rural population, who all said smaller lot sizes. But, staff defined that to mean only changes to resource lands with parcel sizes of 10 and 20 acres, ignoring the rural areas. Their excuse is that they don't want an appeal.

After 20 years, the county commissioners can no longer ignore the needs and wants of rural people and the rural economy. They can no longer ignore that almost 100% of the rural land parcels are much smaller than allowed in their zones and the changing face of agriculture and forestry in the county and nation. The commissioners must balance the rural land needs with the cities in the 2016 Comprehensive Plan. Cities are not required to have people come forward, en masse, to support their position, nor should rural representatives. This in not the intent of the GMA.

Clark County Citizens United, has presented often, for the wants and needs of rural people. We ask the Board of Commissioners to reconsider the staff proposal, to better meet those concerns.

Sincerely,

Carol Levanen, Ex. Secretary
Clark County Citizens United, Inc.

P. O. Box 2188, Battle Ground, Washington, 98604