To:
Board of Clark County Councilors
GMA Planning Staff
From:
Sydney Reisbick, Personal Hat

I am speaking for myself alone because there has not been time to check with the Board of Friends of Clark County.

Finally I see why you seem not worried about the Growth Management Act (GMA) and Growth Management Hearings Board (Hearings Board), even though staff is recommending caution. Friends of Clark County (FOCC) has been supporting Clark County staff in their effort to remain consistent with the Growth Management Act while forming your Growth Management Plan. It will continue to do so, because the GMA is still currently the law.

With my personal hat on, I would like to present two bills currently in the State Legislature.

One has its hearing on Thursday. It is HB 1158: Granting local governments the authority to make challenges to growth management planning subject to direct review in superior court. Local jurisdictions could adopt an ordinance directing that all reviews go directly to court, bypassing the Growth Management Hearings Board. The difference in the two seems to me that the Board hears from the intent of the GMA, while the court will judge from the letter. Judging from the letter of the law has previously seriously curtailed the intent of the act.
One had its hearings this morning.

SB 5061: Limiting the Authority of the Growth Management Hearings Board to hear Petitions Challenging the Regulation of Permit Exempt Wells.

- Eliminates GMA Hearings Board review of local decisions involving water supply for new rural development
- Will likely result in inappropriate rural development in areas with scarce water. Will impact on senior water rights and instream flows for salmon.

Both violate the spirit of the GMA. Forming a Growth Management Plan that is inconsistent with the GMA, while it is still the law, will not facilitate the acceptance of the experimental Light Industrial Land Bank project, which could be your “big thing” and be part of the definition of Clark County if done right.

Therefore, I personally, also support staff in their efforts to be careful.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sydney Reisbick
Personal Hat
Hello,

Please see the attached comments from Sydney Reisbick, which she emailed to the BOCC for yesterday’s public comment.

You may have already received these, but just in case.

Rebecca