

Letter: Rural landowners' voices heard

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All 13 goals of guidance written in the Growth Management Act have equity. However, goals of respect for property rights, affordable housing and rural economic vitality have been slighted in Clark County. Without question, the rural landowners have been disproportionately burdened. Somebody's hard work earned that land, maintains it and pays taxes.



Clark County Citizens United has taken the necessary steps to establish an extensive and lawful body of testimony in the public record. This was done intentionally to ensure the rural lands wouldn't get ignored. Since 2013, CCCU has been persistently knocking on the planner's door ... it's been locked tight to us.

Thankfully, Councilor David Madore saw a glaring gap in the county's process that eliminated us and ignored our body of testimony. Madore saw our issues as significant and allowed the rural landowners' status as stakeholders in the process. This landmark shift in policy deserves commendation. His bold move to hit the reset button on the comprehensive plan was necessary. Consistently, the rural communities and landowners have been underrepresented, but severely impacted by county land-use decisions. The planners and townships boldly assume that the rural landowners are preservationists ... charities that exist for their discretion.

Madore has given the rural citizens an opportunity in designing their futures. CCCU appreciates the county council's efforts at crafting a balanced and just comprehensive plan.

Susan Rasmussen

La Center



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