

Schroader, Kathy



From: Orjiako, Oliver
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2015 4:54 PM
To: Euler, Gordon; Alvarez, Jose
Cc: Schroader, Kathy
Subject: FW: Rural Economics verses the Cities - For the Public Record

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Just FYI. Please, Kathy for the index. Thanks.

Oliver

From: Carol Levanen [<mailto:cnldental@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2015 4:48 PM
To: Orjiako, Oliver
Subject: Fw: Rural Economics verses the Cities - For the Public Record

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

From: Carol Levanen <cnldental@yahoo.com>
To: "david.madore@clark.wa.gov" <david.madore@clark.wa.gov>; "jeanne.stewart@clark.wa.gov" <jeanne.stewart@clark.wa.gov>; "tom.mielke@clark.wa.gov" <tom.mielke@clark.wa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2015 4:12 PM
Subject: Rural Economics verses the Cities - For the Public Record

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From: susan rasmussen <sprazz@outlook.com>
To: Carol Levanen <cnldental@yahoo.com>; Jim Malinowski <j.malinowski@ieee.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2015 9:18 AM
Subject: Re: Entitled attitude of the cities

How are rural communities supposed to form a foundation that fights back against a culture in which it seems the cities are entitled to take the lead in any structured growth plan? How can we best tamp down this entitlement, and bring out the best for the rural communities...especially concerning rural economic development?

Kindly consider this example. The Woodland community is celebrating the grand opening of their new high school. This high school is complete with a football field, stadium seating, and night lights.

Years ago, Woodland diversified its economic base away from the timber and agriculture industries. Woodland aggressively expanded the port district and attracted new industries and commerce. New and diverse housing was built to accommodate the expanding jobs. Woodland successfully broadened their tax base.

On the other hand, consider La Center's economic situation. La Center has a very limited economic base. It is almost exclusively tied to gambling, timber, and dwindling agricultural activities. La Center

has not aggressively expanded its land capacity for industry and commerce. It has neglected to diversify its economic base and is suffering as a result.

The "new" La Center High School was built over 20 years ago. The school was obsolete for its capacity before it was complete. Just last year, the football field, some stadium seating, and lights were finally completed. This massive community project was built with volunteer labor, donated funds, and materials. The one elementary school still shares the campus with the over-crowded middle school.

Mario Villanueva, the director of the Wa. State Rural Economic Development Council, has stated that rural communities need to be represented on equal footing among the jurisdictions to ensure their fair share of economic opportunities. This is important as it supports the quality of life for the rural citizens.

The cities no longer can expect a free ride at the expense of the rural communities. They need to understand that we also have concerns that are just as important to our culture and way of life, as the urban culture. The domination of the cities shouldn't be tolerated...but it has become the norm for Clark County. Balance is needed.

Thank you for your attention,
Susan Rasmussen