Dear Councilors,

June 7, 2016 - For the Public Record

After three years of CCCU testimony, 156 weeks, 500 plus documents and emails, backed by hundreds of landowner's testimony, the Councilors continue to ignore corrections needed to fix the rural and resource problems in the Comprehensive Plan. They are moving ahead with an erroneous unauthorized formula, concocted by the Health Department and Staff, using flawed and erroneous policies that have never had thorough public discussion. Councilor's duty is to insure health, welfare and safety, not insure cities can be large metropolises. How does this Plan's massive three inch binder meet mandatory responsibilities? It doesn't. It stops economic welfare of rural people, creating land and tax poverty. It stops rural children from living by parents and giving affordable elder health care. It ignores generations of rural character and forces families into different, stressful urban lifestyles. It stops family ancestral heritage and cultures from being passed to children and grand children. It stops safe rural communities that are bonded by family, friends and neighbors. It stops those wanting the experience of living a rural lifestyle. The proposed 2016 Comprehensive Plan update is riddled with flawed data, inconsistencies and a flawed process. Here are only a few examples of the many flawed documents in the Plan. CCCU will submit the rest, later.

* Page 1, Appendix F - Public Involvement it states, Opportunities for Public participation, input, and the program to inform Clark County residents consisted of the following*. It is followed by 22 items of Board of County Commissioner work session meetings. Staff failed to note there is no public involvement and testimony allowed at work sessions. On-line, web based access is primarily the manner in which the public was required to communicate their concerns to the county. Page 1 claims dissemination of information to mailing list of interested citizens. CCCU has written it's address hundreds of time in a public hearing sign in sheet, and has never received Comp Plan information to the noted address. It also states presentations to organizations, etc., which must have been to isolated groups. As a rural representative, CCCU was never presented information by staff, even when the councilors were invited to a Town Hall Meeting.

* Resolution # 2014-01-10 - Clark County Public Participation Plan and Preliminary Scoping Schedule - page 3, Item 17, 1, states, Ensure broad participation by identifying key interest groups.... After 22 years of participation in the Comprehensive Plan process, CCCU should expect inclusion as a key interest group. To CCCU's knowledge, only environmental group, Friends of Clark County, and the urban area, Responsible Growth Forum, along with the cities, were invited to participate. This is discrimination.

* Page 2 @ 21, BOCC hearing on November 24, 2015 to discuss the Preferred Alternative, new planning assumptions, policies. The notice failed to note that there was a resolution up for adoption, to repeal the adopted Preferred Alternative. A whole new Preferred Alternative was also adopted, which the public had no idea was going to happen, nor did they know what the new Alternative contained.

* Exhibit 1 - Issue Paper 4.2 - page 1 - Background- staff claims "In July 2013, Clark County began the process of updating it's Comprehensive Growth Management Plan to meet the 2016 periodic update...." Many documents in the record, show the foundational documents began as early as 2007, when staff and the Health Department began work on policies, including the Farm Preservation Advisory Committee, 2009 Agriculture Preservation Strategies Report, 2010 Clark County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, the Growing Healthier Report and Ageing Readiness Report, offered to the Planning Commission and Commissioners in 2012. Federal USDA grants were supposedly used for research, but actually enabled county staff to write policy documents in the Comprehensive Plan. Additional grants are pending, to continue this activity.

The entire 2016 Comprehensive Plan is fatally flawed. Clark County must stop the clock, take the time, correct the mistakes and compose a comprehensive Plan that represents all of Clark County Citizens.

Sincerely, Carol Levanen, Exec. Secretary
Clark County Citizens United, Inc., P.O. Box 2188, Battle Ground, Washington 98604