May 6, 2008

Honorable Allan Crankovich
Honorable Mark McClain
Kittitas County Board of Commissioners

Dear Commissioners:

Eastern Washington Growth Hearings Board Decision Compliance
Case No. 07-1-004c

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this most important document.

I would like to read into the record a portion of my testimony to the Board of Commissioners October 26, 2006 regarding the 2006 Comprehensive Plan Update. I believe these comments apply profoundly to the issues before you at this time.

QUOTE: “I have serious concerns about the future of Kittitas County and I believe the document before you is of the utmost importance. I ask you to deliberate with the intention of the Growth Management Act foremost in your minds. RCW 36.70A.010 states “The legislature finds that uncoordinated and unplanned growth, together with a lack of common goals expressing the public’s interest in the conservation and wise use of our lands, poses a threat to the environment, sustainable economic development, and the health and safety, and the high quality of life enjoyed by residents of this state. It is in the public interest that citizens, communities, local government and the private sector cooperate and coordinate with one another in comprehensive land use planning.”

The task at hand is complicated and should be given the considerable review and process the citizens of Kittitas County expect. It is my hope that you will take a through look at the considerable input from the public and include that information into the resulting document. You as our County Commissioners have the duty, authority and responsibility to produce a document that will reflect the public’s interest and bring the Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan into full compliance with the Growth Management Act.” END QUOTE.

In response to testimony at the October 26, 2006 hearing one Commissioner indicated that he resented any inference that the Commissioners were not doing their duty in the best interest of the County’s citizens. If the Commissioners were doing their duty responsibly we would not be here today.
Although I respect and appreciate the huge amount of work done by the Land Use Advisory Committee, the document presented for public review is the product of a committee, which is comprised of many with special interests in the residential building industry. The committee appears to have taken the interests of the residential industry into strong consideration when determining land use and zoning map designations. You as Commissioners, have the responsibility to look past these special interests. With technical information from County Staff, Land Use and Zoning maps can appropriately reflect the proper designations regardless of what may be on the ground or in the interest of the residential building industry. It is not the County’s duty to assure real estate speculators and developers the ability to continue the unimpeded over development of Kittitas County. Your vision must go far beyond the mere building of as many homes as possible. You must consider the economic and infrastructure development necessary to grow this County into a sustainable community without losing those most important resource lands which make this County a very special place to its residents.

As I am certain you are aware if the EWGHB is not satisfied with the product you produce, the State of Washington can place sanctions on Kittitas County. Such sanctions could eliminate a great deal of money in the County’s budget. I do not believe anyone wants that to happen. Please use the short time you have for compliance to do what is right for the Citizens of Kittitas County.

Sincerely,

Marge Brandsrud

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