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**To:** [Jamey Ayling](#)  
**Subject:** CU-23-00003  
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Kittitas County Community Development,

I am writing regarding to the proposed Conditional Use Permit for the Fowler Creek Guest Ranch (CU-23-00003).

My wife and I reside at 10930 Westside Rd, just down the hill from the site. While I could go on about my concerns regarding light pollution, intensive noise, and the threat to the character of this community both in this project and in the precedent it will set - what is most striking, is the dangerous position approval of this project would put the Fowler Creek/Granite Creek/Pasco residents in.

I recently retired as of this year, but have spent more than 40 years working in Emergency Medicine. I have served as a Fireman Paramedic as a first responder and as staff in the Emergency Department. I have been witness to more trauma than I care to break down in this letter, and have helped to fight more wildland and domestic fires than I hope readers of this will ever experience in their lifetime.

Outcomes for physical trauma and for fires have one key thing that matters likely more than anything else: time to first response. For those of us familiar with the ingress/egress of this community, it is challenging. Our public resources have been stretched to capacity and our emergency services have not been able to keep up with this demand. When you add up to two hundred visitors, participating in risky activities (ORV trails, hiking, campfires, wilderness exploration) and couple this with limited emergency staff, we are asking for danger and loss of life.

The wildfire risk in this area is well known. It does not take long to sift through the records to find several wildfire incidences in the near vicinity. This development will increase this risk, I believe immensely. It could be mitigated by reducing the guest capacity significantly, requiring a secondary access road well away from Fowler Creek Rd, disallowing RVs, and requiring high-flow fire-fighting water with adequate duration.

Urban planning is a challenge. I do not envy the position you are in. I know little about the work you've been asked to assess. What I do know, is that as we grow, we need to grow responsibly. This means increasing the density in in-fill locations and limiting our growth and subsequently our risk in areas of high risk.

I urge you to evaluate this proposal critically and assess the strain it would put on our local public resources and the risks the community is being asked to bear. When evaluating, the lens we should look through is WHEN not IF an emergency occurs, what will we need to adequately respond?

Thank you for your time and thoughtful review.

Best,  
James Knight