

EXHIBIT 5

B. *The proposed amendment bears a substantial relation to the public health, safety or welfare.*

The proposed amendment must bear a substantial relation to only one of the following: public health, safety or welfare and this proposal benefits county residents in all three categories.

Kittitas County Population Growth: The Kittitas County Conference of Governments (KCCOG) has adopted the Washington State Office of Financial Management's (OFM) high population projection for the county. KCCOG has allocated approximately 28.5% of this projected growth (approximately 15,000 people) to occur in the rural and non-urban areas of the county. In addition to full time residents, the Upper County has a large seasonal/recreational population, which is not included in the population projection for Kittitas County. This proposal provides for the possibility of housing that will add to the greater mix of residential housing types that will assist in meeting the carrying capacity that the county is required to provide for in the Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan. By changing this zone to Rural 5 with property located in the future boundaries of the Big Creek Water System that has the water rights to serve this area bears a substantial relation to the public health, safety and/or welfare; and

Public Health: The Upper Kittitas County has had the availability of new domestic water supplies greatly reduced as the Department Of Ecology has determined that the water in the upper Yakima River basin has been over allocated. In addition, the Department of Ecology has found that there is a connection between surface and ground water in the Upper Yakima River Basin and has determined that there will be no new water rights (surface or ground) issued for any use unless mitigated by an existing senior water right. The Applicant owns a senior water right on Big Creek and has formed a private water bank with the Department of Ecology (The Big Creek Water Bank). The water rights from this bank will be used to mitigate water used for the proposed zoning change. By providing private senior water rights and a Group A water systems this amendment bears a substantial relation to the public health; and

Welfare: The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines "welfare" as "*the state of doing well especially in respect to good fortune, happiness, well-being, or prosperity*". Home

ownership intermixed with recreation activities are specifically designed to provide happiness and well-being. The property is located in a location and adjacent to other properties in the same area all destined to be used for Rural home ownership with easy and local access to wide variety of recreational opportunities for both summer and winter. By providing these new opportunities the proposal bears a substantial relation to welfare; and

Safety: The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines “safety” as “*the condition of being safe from undergoing or causing hurt, injury, or loss*”. The change in the zone from Forest and Range to Rural 5 will provide a safer environment for the continued and growing rural population and recreation uses. The proposed is located has become a major recreation area/corridor where future homeownership will be located close to these recreation activities and within easy access to I-90. By removing such outright permitted uses such as mining and providing new housing with a safe water supply and additional recreation opportunities in a safe environment the proposal and this amendment bears a substantial relation to safety.