

Kathleen Satnik  
60 Cascadia Lane  
Ellensburg, WA 98926

September 13, 2024

Jamey Ayling  
Planning Manager  
Kittitas County

Dear Mr Ayling, Community Development Services, and Kittitas County Board of Commissioners:

Subject: Urgent Concerns Regarding Safety in Proposed Rezone from AG 5 to Planned Unit Development for 200 Acres with 110 Lots

I am writing to urgently address my concerns about the proposed rezone of approximately 200 acres from AG 5 (Agricultural) to Planned Unit Development (PUD) for 110 new lots. There is already a significant risk to motorists and pedestrians alike given the current state of Wilson Creek Road. The addition of this many homes and the anticipated increase in traffic will take a bad situation and make it worse.

Wilson Creek Road will be serving the proposed development either directly at Mission View Rd or indirectly as new residents turn onto Game Farm Rd to access the new development's other entrance. This is in addition to the additional traffic heading north and south on Wilson Creek Road due to the narrowing of Brick Road to the east. Wilson Creek road is already heavily used by farm equipment and large trucks—most notable are cattle and hay trucks and the Tarp-It company's trucks and trailers—valuable aspects of our agricultural community at large, and especially in this area.

Wilson Creek Road has no shoulders and features a narrow bridge over Cascade Irrigation District's canal, posing serious safety hazards. Congestion on the road already backs traffic up from Mission View/Cascadia Lane to the bridge. Multiple collisions between vehicles and the bridge over the years emphasize this point.

Additionally, the road is a popular route for local residents who use it for recreational purposes, including walking to Paul Roger's Park with their families and pets. The lack of shoulders means that pedestrians cannot step aside and wait for traffic to stop. When pedestrians are crossing the bridge, traffic on the road generally comes to a stop instead.

The anticipated addition of 110 new lots will lead to a significant increase in traffic on an already congested and unsafe road.

To mitigate these risks, it is essential that a comprehensive traffic and safety impact assessment is conducted. This assessment should evaluate the potential increase in traffic and propose

necessary infrastructure improvements, such as road widening, shoulder construction, and bridge enhancements. Without these improvements, the safety of both vehicular traffic and pedestrians will be severely compromised. No other work on the project should take place until the assessment is completed and the recommendations implemented.

I strongly urge the County to prioritize community safety in the review of this proposal. Please ensure that any development plan includes a robust safety and infrastructure enhancement strategy to protect drivers and pedestrians from deadly collisions.

Thank you for your attention to this critical safety issue.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Satnik