

March 7, 2023

Kelly Bacon
Planner 1
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 North Ruby Street, Ste 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926



Kittitas County CDS

Re: Letter of Concern regarding Conditional Use Application CU-23-00001

Dear Kelly Bacon,

My husband and I are residents of the Kittitas Valley and are writing to voice our concern regarding the Conditional Use Permit Application for the 3BR Custom Cuts meat processing operation on Wilson Creek Road (parcel #214534). While we understand the need for more locally owned and operated meat processing facilities in the valley, we are very much against the proposed location of this facility. Numerous rural residences surround the proposed site and are likely to be negatively impacted by the proposed operation. These impacts seem likely to manifest from increased traffic and associated pollution from vehicle exhaust, foul smells coming from the facility, and increased predator, vermin, and insect populations from the storage and disposal of animal offal.

Even more so we are concerned for the long-term health of the residents of the Kittitas Valley and the environmental sustainability of the natural landscape. Before the project is allowed to move forward at any location, we would like to see an Environmental Impact Statement prepared that addresses our concerns about the impact that this facility might have on air, soil, and water quality/quantity. Protecting the longevity and health of freshwater terrestrial and groundwater systems in the Kittitas Valley should be a high priority for the county, and it should be made clear that this facility will have no negative impacts on either of those if it is allowed to move forward. In reading through the program narrative, there is only mention of one residential well and septic tank. This seems inadequate for an operation of this size. It also seems like this facility will use a lot of water, which would be drawn from freshwater aquifers that underlie the valley. This could lead to a decrease in the amount of freshwater available for others to use, including my own household. This impact could be decreased significantly if it were instead located somewhere that drew water from the Yakima River (i.e., "city water") instead of using groundwater. We also fear for the potential consequences of groundwater and soil contamination that may result from the operation of this facility.

In summary, we are not against this facility, but we are against the way in which this facility is being planned and the location of it. We would like to see our concerns addressed before this project is allowed to move forward. We would also like to see it moved to a more appropriate industrial, non-residential area.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. We wish to be notified when the public hearing is scheduled for this project.

Sincerely,

Megan Walsh, K. Ferrier

Megan Walsh, PhD, Professor of Geography and Natural Resource Management, CWU

Kevan Ferrier, Owner/Operator of Fairview Window Cleaning

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