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Kittitas County CDS

To: Kelly Bacon, Staff Planner,
Kittitas County Community Development Services
Kittitas County Commissioners: Cory Wright, Laura Osiadocz, and Brett Wachsmith

From: Parker McKinnon
2850 Wilson Creek Rd
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Subject: Letter of Concern, (CU-23-00001)

Over the last couple of weeks, it has been brought to my attention that a meat packing plant, with slaughter on its premise, is proposed to be built on Wilson Creek Road in Ellensburg by 3 Boots Ranch Custom Cuts. Parcel #2L45341.

We recently moved to the Ellensburg area buying our house with 4 acres on Wilson Creek. It was zoned AG-5 which was enticing to us as first-time home buyers. A couple of the reasons we wanted to move here were that it was closer to my grandfather's farm, and it was important to us to become more involved. Furthermore, we enjoyed the community and lifestyle of Ellensburg which is why we bought where we did. Working in King County with a local fire department there the last thing either of us wanted was to move into a metropolitan area surrounded by commercial structures.

As we have done more research about this proposed project by 3 Boots Ranch, we have found that there has been a severe lack of transparency and concern for the community by our county council. For starters this project has been kept under the radar by the council and 3BR regarding the environmental, ecological, traffic, health/safety, quality of life and property value impacts this has on an area that the 3BR meat slaughtering/processing facility is supposed to be built. Which is why me and my fellow neighbors request that the Kittitas County Community Development Services, and Kittitas County Commissioners deny the conditional use permit requested on CU023-00001. While there is a need for commercial facilities of all kinds it is not right for the county to change the zoning requirements of this area and put the taxpayers through a list of challenges.

Here are a few of my biggest concerns. To start, water is at the top of my list. A facility and company that's purpose is to slaughter and process animals with a goal to grow three times its originally slated size in an area with 5-10-acre homes all over that is going to provide huge challenges with water. I am not just concerned with the fact that the facility itself will need an amazing amount of water to be functional but what about the contaminants? Blood and who knows what else will go into drain fields, which means it is seeping into our ground. Potentially causing health problems for those people around the facility, but what about the environment? What about the flood risk? Even in our short time here as homeowners we have experienced it. What is going to happen when this facility floods bringing a list of contaminants into Lyle creek

which has fish in it or into neighboring properties? Is that not a risk to our environment? Is that not a health risk?

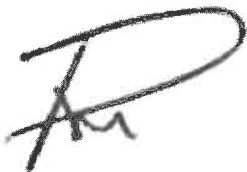
With that my second major concern is quality of life and property value. With the potential stench of a processing plant being only 4 plots away is concerning. There is currently not the infrastructure in this county to haul waste away every day or every other day like 3BR is stating. Not just including the waste but the lack of transparency on both the county's part and 3BR there is still no answer on if or when there is going to be a feed lot attached to this process. Both the smell and sanitation issues driving people away, the property values and quality of life will decrease. The only thing it brings in is an unwanted potential abundance of predator animals. I know our county commissioners would not allow any of this facility to be put in if it was on Skyline Drive, S A St, or Heron Ln. Especially if they were 4 plots down. They would be concerned about the same things I am along with some of their own.

Purpose and intent.

The purpose and intent of the agriculture (A-5) zone is to provide for an area where various agricultural activities and low density residential developments co-exist compatibly. A-5 zones are predominately agricultural-oriented lands and it is not the intent of this section to impose further restrictions on continued agricultural activities therein

Above is from the Kittitas County Code, Title 17 Zoning. Read it. This project our county commissioners are trying to pull off with the 3BR is the opposite of what our county has set forth. This zoning code is supposed to protect what we all find so attractive and valuable about the place that we live. Which is why I sincerely hope our county commissioners listen and take stock in what their taxpayers in the area in which this facility greatly affects. Deny the conditional use permit requested for CU023-00001. I truly hope 3 Boots Custom Ranch can find a place that is zoned for their intended use and *not* agricultural activities and low density residential. A place that 3BR can grow as they want and plan to. A place that will give them great success. But our area is not the place. There are just too many environmental concerns and quality of life jeopardy issues in this location. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, our commissioners can also find a copy of this letter in their email along with our friends at BIA, Washington Dept of Ecology, and our Bureau of Reclamation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Parker McKinnon', written in a cursive style.

Parker McKinnon