

May 23, 2023

Kittitas County Community Development
Att: Kelly Bacon
411 Ruby Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Dear Ms. Bacon,

I am writing in regards to CU-0001-23, filed by 3 Boots Ranch.

Two things have struck me since first commenting in February and I would like to comment on those now.

First, the excessive flooding that has occurred over the past several weeks (photos attached). Seeing the flooded grounds covered in standing water, water filled trench, eroding roadway and an indistinguishable driveway was of no surprise to me. This is part of living on Wilson Creek Rd. We're just a little over a mile from this property and have to run a sump pump under our home three months out of the year, as even when the surface water dissipates, the water table is just below the surface.

With the average steer spilling three gallons of blood/fluid at the time of kill, well before the offal is collected in the slaughter process, this water would be filled with biohazardous material. Not to mention the "holding pen" material.

Second, all letters of support seem to speak to the "need" for this processing plant and the "service to the community" it will provide. However, after speaking with the owners directly, I would like them to clarify with the county their true intent of this facility.

It is my understanding that there is a separate business in place to build a custom meat box and high dollar farm-to-table enterprise, which would be supported by this facility. (See <https://www.fivemarysfarms.com/about-five-marys-meats> for business model example). While I have no doubt that 3BR would take local, community customers as they build their business, it does not appear to be the endgame. As such, as they scale their own custom meat business, I think it's a reasonable assumption that local slaughter customers will fall to the wayside.

Personally, I think their overall business plans are exciting. It's a great concept that has been very successful for ranches, big and small, across the country. My opposition is based solely on the proposed location. A 300 foot wide parcel, nestled amongst numerous homes, along a rural county no-shoulder road, with extensive wildlife from deer to cougar and unavoidable ongoing flooding simply isn't the place for semi-truck dependent, concentrated "holding pen", biohazard producing, 365-day/year whirling industry.

Thank you for the time and opportunity to comment and ask additional questions.

Sincerely,

Hilary Jensen
6181 Wilson Creek Rd.





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