From: Tilton, Rebecca
To: LaRocque, Linnea
Subject: FW: comments RILB
Date: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 3:48:03 PM
Attachments: SFSWW RILB letter 4.5.16.doc

Hello…

I just receive more comments re: the RILB hearing for the Grill. (See attached).

I've printed off for the board and sent to Community Planning.

Thanks!

From: Sue Marshall [mailto:suemarshall5@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 2:11 PM
To: Tilton, Rebecca
Subject: comments RILB

Rebecca,

Please include the attached letter for the record regarding tonight's hearing on RILB>

Thank you.

Sue

Slow Food®
Southwest Washington

Mr. Mark Boldt, Chair
Clark County Council
PO Box 9810
Vancouver, WA 98666-9810

April 5, 2016

RE: Designation of Industrial Zone, De-designation 600 acres of Agricultural Land

Chair Boldt and Council Members:

My name is Sue Marshall. My family owns a 20 acre farm in Ridgefield and I am a board member of Slow Food SW Washington. My comments tonight are on behalf of Slow Food SW Washington.

Slow Food Southwest Washington is a chapter of Slow Food USA and founded in 2006 as a Leadership Clark County project. We work to inspire people to eat, grow and share local, healthy food.

Our concern with the proposed designation of rural industrial land on this site is for the loss of 600 acres of prime agricultural land with no effective mitigation to offset the loss. The land qualifies as agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance and continues to have an agriculture comprehensive plan designation and should be retained as agricultural land.

Protecting the long term economic viability of agriculture in this county is dependent on the availability of farm land. If additional industrial land is needed, the county should look to alternative sites on non-resource lands or require a mitigation plan that assures no net loss of farm land.

A serious problem is that we in Clark County have not developed appropriate mitigation tools and a strategy to preserve farmland. We believe the county is overdue in developing tools that can ameliorate conflicting land uses related to agricultural. These tools can serve as the catalyst to create win-win opportunities and can protect farmland for the long term.

There have been two excellent reports that point the way forward.

- The Agriculture Preservation Committee's report of 2009, *Agricultural Preservation Strategies Report*. A principle recommendation from the report is the designation of agricultural production districts in the county. These would be prioritized areas for the preservation of agricultural lands and the focus for application of purchase or transfer of development rights and aggregation of land dedicated to farming.

Follow up on this report and convene a task force that will focus on identification of agricultural production districts and implementation of strategies to enhance and protect these districts.

- Clark County Food System Council, *Promoting Agricultural Food Production in Clark County*, 2013, recommendation: during the current update of the comprehensive plan consider voluntary measures to protect and maintain agriculturally productive lands.

  Seek the Clark County Food System's assistance.

Agriculture has long-term commercial significance in Clark County. According to USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *2012 Census of Agriculture Washington State and County Data* - Income from farm-related sources is up sharply in Clark County, increasing from $4.2 million in 2007 to $5.98 million in 2012 - an increase of 41 percent. Fueling this, at least in part, is both the increased access to direct markets and a customer base motivated to buy local. We need to build on this momentum.

We urge you to deny this request or postpone until an adequate mitigation plan can be put in place so that there is no net loss to agricultural resource land.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sue Marshall
Board Member Slow Food Southwest Washington