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Okanogan County
Planning and Development

P. O. Box 886
Winthrop, WA 98862
September 13, 2019

Ms. Angie Hubbard, Acting Director
Okanogan County Office of Planning and Development
123 Fifth Avenue North, Suite 130
Okanogan, WA 98840

Subject: More Comments on July 17, 2019 Draft of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Okanogan County Comprehensive Plan

Dear Ms. Hubbard:

I read in the Methow Valley News that Okanogan County is contemplating the hiring of someone with land-use-planning legal expertise to re-evaluate our approach to revising the Comprehensive Plan. That suggested to me that the County is receptive to considering other alternatives to those contained in the current "draft" revision.

The 2014 version of the Comprehensive Plan began the process of transitioning Okanogan County's approach to land use planning away from RCW 36.70 and toward RCW 36.70A, the so-called "Growth Management Act of 1990". **I believe Okanogan County should complete that transition to RCW 36.70A at this time.** The primary focus of RCW 36.70A is the preservation of "open space" and the prevention of "urban sprawl" by encouraging new development to proceed continuously outward from existing development. It does that by requiring that land located immediately adjacent to existing development be zoned the same as that development unless it has some differentiating characteristic that causes significant adverse environmental impact. In the Methow Valley, the "bell has already rung" on part-time, single-family residential housing outside of the incorporated towns, and conformance with RCW 36.70A would keep us from having to endure continuing futile efforts to "un-ring the bell" on the Methow Valley's rural development by those who want to live there full-time by themselves.

Sincerely yours,



H. C. Burkholder