

cc'd: O-Oryjako, C. Cook
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Rebecca Messinger

From: Kathleen Otto
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 7:55 AM
To: Tina Redline; Rebecca Messinger
Subject: FW: The state of the Portland region - straight talk



Kathleen Otto
County Manager

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From: Clark County Citizens United, Inc. <ccuinc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2023 9:33 PM
To: Karen Bowerman <Karen.Bowerman@clark.wa.gov>; Gary Medvigy <Gary.Medvigy@clark.wa.gov>; Michelle Belkot <Michelle.Belkot@clark.wa.gov>; Glen Yung <Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov>; Sue Marshall <Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov>; Kathleen Otto <Kathleen.Otto@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: Fw: The state of the Portland region - straight talk

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- Clark County Council
- P.O. box 5000
- Vancouver, Washington 98666

March 5, 2023

FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD

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- MAR 3, 2023
KGW's Straight Talk with Laural Porter Laural Porter/KGW <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/kgws-straight-talk-with-laural-porter/id1477506392>

Dear Councilors,

Clark County Citizens United, Inc. is forwarding you two interesting podcasts regarding the economy of the Portland, Oregon "region". But CCCU asks, why are we calling Clark County the "Portland region" Portland should be less concerned about controlling the "region", outside of Oregon, and more focused on curing their problems and increasing the economy for the state of Oregon. There's

a reason that half of the state wants to be called "Greater Idaho". There's a reason why folks are moving from Portland to Clark County and other regions. The same is true for Clark County, in the whole scheme of things. There's a reason that hundreds of families are moving to places North of Clark County, and it is likely the same reason.

Both Clark County and Portland need to listen to their people and consider their needs and concerns. Cities thrive when their government listens to them and does something about their problems. The same is true for counties. It's time for Clark County to cut the apron strings that bind our economy to Portland, and become our own economic engine that drives the rest of our Southwest Region. For too long Clark County has been controlled by Portland Metro.

Back in 1994, The North Clark County people wanted to form another county. They were very organized and professional as they did the necessary work. They decided to call the new proposed county, "River County", and they were determined to get away, because of what was happening in the 1994 Comprehensive Plan downzoning. They approached CCCU asking for help toward that goal. As we looked at their plans, we thought of Skamania County. It is a region that is owned and controlled by the government. Very little of the land is privately owned. Because of that, their economy suffers terribly. An easier way for North Clark County to get away from what Clark County government was doing to them, was to connect the land mass to an adjoining county, via a boundary adjustment.

CCCU met with the Skamania County government and shared the new idea, for consideration. The Commissioners were very supportive and thought it was a good idea. They wanted to discuss the idea more thoroughly, and would get back with us. After having meetings with their government officials, they called back. They thought it would be wonderful to actually have a tax base land potential to increase their economy. Maps were drawn and everything looked good. But, there was only one thing wrong. They said that if they connected to the more populated area of Clark County, they would wind up being treated the same way that North Clark County people were being treated. The populated area would control them and they would have no say as to what government officials would be doing against them. They decided they didn't want to take that chance.

But you see how desperate the North County folks were. They hated what had been done to them with the downzoning and struck back at the government they were compelled to pay millions of dollars in taxes, to be treated as if they didn't exist.

As the Councilors begin their review for the Comprehensive Plan update, remember that the North county problem has never been fixed. Even when CCCU went to court on their behalf and won, county government still didn't fix the problem. It is Clark County Citizens, Inc.'s hope that the Council is not going to make these people suffer for fifty years. The rural area needs housing, the people need jobs, the taxpayers need land use relief. Perhaps it is time to go back to where it all started and do it over again, The Comprehensive Plan must have something for all county taxpayers, and not just a select few.

Sincerely,

Carol Levanen, Exec. Secretary

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KGW's Straight Talk with Laural Porter on Apple Podcasts



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