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From: Clark County <webmaster@clark.wa.gov>
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Subject: Council Hearing Public Comment

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Clark County

Submitted on Sun, 11/26/2023 - 10:16 PM

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Subject
Request for further review: Clark County Climate Stakeholder Assessment Summary and Recommendations Report

Date of Hearing
Tue, 11/28/2023

Comment
Dear Clark County Council Members,

I am writing to you as a concerned resident of Clark County regarding the proposed environmental measures intended to be implemented as part of the county's growth management planning process. While I wholeheartedly support initiatives aimed at promoting environmental sustainability and combating climate change, I believe that a more thorough review and detailed planning are essential before proceeding with these significant changes.

The proposed measures, including the addition of native plants on county land, distribution of compost bins, solar-ready roofs, electric vehicle-ready parking lots, installation of solar panels, transition to electric heat pumps, and fleet electrification, among others, are indeed commendable. However, I have concerns regarding the feasibility, specifics, and implications of these measures:

1. Lack of Specific Targets and Metrics: The proposed measures use vague terms like 'reduce' without setting specific goals or measures for comparison. For meaningful progress, it's crucial to have clear, quantifiable targets.

2. Implementation Timeline: The plan to have these changes in place by June 2025 seems overly ambitious. Implementing such significant changes requires careful planning, stakeholder consultation, and gradual execution to ensure effectiveness and minimize disruption as we head in to a forecasted recession in first part of 2024.

3. Data and Impact Assessment: There appears to be limited data supporting the effectiveness of these measures in our specific county context. A comprehensive impact assessment is necessary to understand the potential benefits and challenges.

4. Societal Restructuring Concerns: The scale and nature of the changes could fundamentally alter many aspects of life in Clark County. It's imperative to consider the broader societal implications and ensure that the transition is equitable and inclusive.

5. Financial and Resource Implications: The financial and resource commitments for these initiatives are substantial. A detailed budgetary analysis and funding strategy are essential to ensure fiscal responsibility.

In light of these concerns, I respectfully request that the Clark County Council delay the implementation of these measures. Instead, I propose a more extended period of review and planning, incorporating:

- Detailed feasibility studies and data-driven impact assessments.
- Development of specific, measurable goals and metrics.
- A more gradual and phased implementation timeline.
- In-depth financial analysis and budget planning.
- Robust public engagement and stakeholder consultation processes.

Our commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable development is commendable, but it is equally important to ensure that our approach is thoughtful, data-driven, and considerate of all potential impacts.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that the Council will consider these points carefully in its decision-making process. I am eager to see Clark County lead the way in sustainable growth and environmental protection in a manner that is both effective and responsible.

Sincerely,

Bill Black
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