

From: [Rebecca Messinger](#)
To: [Brent Davis](#); [April Furth](#); [Oliver Oriako](#); [Sonja Wisser](#)
Subject: FW: The proposed revision to long-standing agriculture building exemptions was made without public input
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 11:52:30 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Good afternoon,

Please see the below public comments from CCCU re: ag building exemption.

Thanks.



Rebecca Messinger
Clerk to the Council
COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE

564-397-4305



From: Kathleen Otto <Kathleen.Otto@clark.wa.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 11:40 AM
To: Rebecca Messinger <Rebecca.Messinger@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: FW: The proposed revision to long-standing agriculture building exemptions was made without public input



Kathleen Otto
County Manager

564.397.2458



From: Clark County Citizens United, Inc. <cccuinc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 7:24 PM

To: Gary Medvigy <Gary.Medvigy@clark.wa.gov>; Karen Bowerman <Karen.Bowerman@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: The proposed revision to long-standing agriculture building exemptions was made without public input

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Clark County Council
2024
P.O.Box 5000
Vancouver, Washington 98666

March 27,

FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD AND THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Re: The proposed revision to long-standing agriculture building exemptions was made without public input.

Dear Councilors,

The membership of Clark County Citizens United is very grateful for the Council's comments, questions and votes concerning the proposal to change the agricultural building exemption. Thank you for listening and for your vote!

Please understand, the proposed revision to the long-standing agriculture building exemption was made without input from the many rural stakeholders. CCCU is unsure who staff consulted with, when preparing the proposal. CCCU is unsure why staff mischaracterized this major policy shift, as a *minor change*. Even though information was incomplete, there were no public comments and no deliberation when the Planning Commission voted. That is a big red flag!

To produce practical changes that will help accomplish the rural community's goals, councilors must consider all sides of the issues that come before you. The proposal should not have staggered forward without having some sense of the consequences to the rural stakeholders. The mechanics of public outreach and intelligence gathering were absent in this process. *There was no meaningful public process* and things suffered as a result. Consequently, the Council was unable to benefit from any true analysis.

CCCU asks the councilors to seriously consider these comments.

- 1. The process, for all regulations, needs to be elevated to certain standards. The citizens need confidence that the work being done by staff, enables the policy makers to have a full breadth of information, necessary to make truly wise, informed, fair and equitable policy decisions, that effects their lives and livelihoods.**
- 2. Human impacts should not be discounted and should be elevated to a high standard. Staff's intelligence gathering should include social, cultural and economic benefits of policy changes. The Council must request additional information beyond minimum**

environmental requirements.

3. **There are occasions where the *neutrality of the narrative, actions* and the *process* should be questioned. Efforts should be taken to exclude bias that may lead to foregone conclusions.**
4. **County managers and staff are positioned to highly influence public policies. They may remain in positions across time, while elected officials may come and go. This disadvantages the elected officials. The documents that Council reviews need to be completely clean and balanced, with regard to existing and/or omitted data that may achieve bias rather than fairness and equity.**
5. **Greater details must be included to justify whether changes are needed, or not. But there does need to be a "need", and not a want. Even so, staff is not the policy maker, and by law, are advisory only. They must be kept in that capacity and not given more authority than the state law and the GMA, provides.**

CCCU's membership appreciates the Council's work. But there are many critical areas that need attention in order to advance fair, accurate, neutral, necessary and more complete analysis before public policy is considered or made. We encourage the Council to task county agencies and managers, with the goal of giving attention to these all important areas of concern that demonstrate fairness, accuracy, neutrality necessity and completeness.

Sincerely,

Susan Rasmussen, President

Clark County Citizens United, Inc.
P.O. Box 2188
Battle Ground, Washington 98604