

From: [Rebecca Messinger](#)
To: [Oliver Orjiako](#); [Jose Alvarez](#); [Cnty 2025 Comp Plan](#)
Subject: FW: It is all in the ability to make choices over rural or urban
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 9:08:37 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image004.emz](#)
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[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Please see the below email from CCCU dated Feb. 25, for the record.

Thank you,
Rebecca

From: Kathleen Otto <Kathleen.Otto@clark.wa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 4:38 PM
To: Rebecca Messinger <Rebecca.Messinger@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: FW: It is all in the ability to make choices over rural or urban



Kathleen Otto
County Manager

564.397.2458



From: Clark County Citizens United, Inc. <cccuinc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 3:30 PM
To: Wil Fuentes <Wil.Fuentes@clark.wa.gov>
Cc: Michelle Belkot <Michelle.Belkot@clark.wa.gov>; Glen Yung <Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov>; Sue Marshall <Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov>; Matt Little <Matt.Little@clark.wa.gov>; Kathleen Otto <Kathleen.Otto@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: It is all in the ability to make choices over rural or urban

FOR THE PUBIC RECORD
25, 2025

February

Dear Councilor Fuentes,

You grew up in the urban and apartment setting and that is all you knew. As a child you were happy as an urban dweller and that was your lifestyle. You didn't think you were confined, as that was your space. I grew up in the rural area on a small farm with orchards, gardens, and animals. That was my lifestyle and my space, and that was all I knew. That is what rural children know, and that is their lifestyle. The majority of them want to continue to live that lifestyle they know and love.

How would you feel if you were suddenly told you have to move into the open space of the country, 20 miles from your urban comfort zone, where you grew up. You wanted to live an urban lifestyle in the urban area you knew so well, but that would not be allowed by the government. Rural children grow up to be rural adults and their comfort zone is the rural lifestyle, they know so well. They want to continue living that life, but now the government is telling them they can't live in the rural area and must live in the urban area, whether they want to or not.

How is it that you can live an urban lifestyle to be happy and healthy, but rural people can't live a rural lifestyle, to be happy and healthy? Is stopping Clark County citizens from living their chosen lifestyle fair and equitable? Would you want to be forced to live a life you don't want?

I lived in a California apartment for one year after graduation, and it was the most stressful year I have ever had. I always felt that danger was lurking around every corner. I couldn't wait to get out of there and back to rural space. Yes, I did feel caged. The only place I could walk my dog was down the street. I tried to walk on the golf course nearby, but a man appeared out of nowhere, and I feared for my life. I had four walls confinement, and no safe place to go outside and relax. On the other side of the wall was a stranger, who changed periodically. My car wasn't safe, and got vandalized periodically. I moved back to the rural area, where I could relax and breath a sigh of relief.

For decades in Clark County, approximately 20% of the people wanted to live a rural lifestyle, and they did. Approximately 80% of the people wanted to live an urban lifestyle, and they did. Then county government dictated that only 10% of the people will be allowed to live a rural lifestyle, but in reality, that wasn't allowed, either. Now staff is saying that only 5% of the people who want to live a rural lifestyle, will be able to do that. Such planning is arbitrary, and such a formula was called illegal, under the GMA, and the rulings of the Poyfair decision and the Court of Appeals Division II, in 1999. Clark County simply ignored those court rulings. It is time for the county to follow the law and allow the citizens to

live the lifestyle of their choice.

Sincerely,

Carol Levanen, Exec. Secretary

Clark County Citizens United, Inc.

P.O. Box 2188

Battle Ground, Washington 98604

<https://www.womenshealthmag.com/>

Scientists Say These Factors Are What Really Age You. And It's Probably Not What You Think.

Korin Miller

Tue, February 25, 2025 at 5:00 AM PST

Meet the experts: [M. Austin Argentieri](#), PhD, lead study author and a research associate at the Harvard/MGH Center on Genomics, Vulnerable Populations, and Health Disparities; [Cornelia van Duijn](#), PhD, study co-author and professor at the University of Oxford Nuffield Department of Population Health; [Alfred F. Tallia](#), MD, MPH, professor and chair of family medicine and community health at the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

What did the study find?

The study, which was published in [Nature Medicine](#), looked at data from about half a million people who participated in the UK Biobank, a biomedical database that contains genetic, health, and lifestyle information.

Using that data, researchers analyzed the influence of nearly 165 environmental elements and genetic risk factors across 22 major age-related diseases and incidences of premature death.

There were a lot of different findings, but the most striking was that the factors related to **lifestyle and a person's environment played a bigger role in biological aging than their genetics did.**

“Environmental factors explained 17 percent of the variation in risk of death, compared to less than 2 percent explained by genetic predisposition,” says [Cornelia van Duijn](#), PhD, study co-author and professor at the University of Oxford Nuffield Department of Population Health.

What kind of environmental factors contribute to aging?

Environmental factors include the things that surround you in your day-to-day life that can influence your health, like the amount of air pollution you're exposed to or where you live. The researchers found that the following environmental factors had the biggest influence on

aging:

- Household income
- Socioeconomic status
- Home ownership
- Employment status
- Whether people lived with a partner

What kind of lifestyle factors contribute to aging?

Lifestyle factors usually refer to daily habits and personal choices a person makes that can influence their health. The biggest contributors to aging included:

- Smoking
- Level of physical activity
- Amount of sleep
- Going to the gym at least once a week

“The more an individual can take control in their lives and create healthy lives through adapting to stressors in a resilient way, the better,” he says.

Clark County Citizens United, Inc. P.O. Box 2188 Battle Ground, Washington 98604 E-Mail cccuinc@yahoo.com

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Wil Fuentes <wil.fuentes@clark.wa.gov>
To: Clark County Citizens United, Inc. <cccuinc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 09:15:17 AM PST
Subject: RE: ; Portland faces a 100 billion dollar budget shortfall

Thank you for this email and your analysis of the housing and economic development of Clark County, most of which I disagree with. I will agree with you on one point, that not everyone wants to live in apartments and building mix of housing options is essential to our community. Oh, and, I grew up in apartments and lived a big part of my life in apartments and not once did I ever feel confined like an animal.

From: Clark County Citizens United, Inc. <cccuinc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 3:44 PM
To: Michelle Belkot <Michelle.Belkot@clark.wa.gov>; Glen Yung <Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov>; Matt Little <Matt.Little@clark.wa.gov>; Wil Fuentes <Wil.Fuentes@clark.wa.gov>; Sue Marshall <Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov>; Kathleen Otto

<Kathleen.Otto@clark.wa.gov>

Subject: ; Portland faces a 100 billion dollar budget shortfall

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of Clark County. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Clark County Council

P.O. Box 5000

Vancouver, Washington 98666

FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD

February 24, 2025

Re; Portland faces a 100 billion dollar budget shortfall

Dear Councilors,

Clark County Citizens United, Inc. urges Clark County to divorce itself from Portland, Oregon and strike out on its own. We all saw this coming when they adopted urban growth boundaries and locked up the economy in rural areas, with their land use policies. It decided to be "king on the mountain", but it didn't, and doesn't work that way. The state of Oregon needs all its communities to be robust, to assure an economically vibrant state.

Unfortunately, Washington state followed its land use lead, and now it is financially suffering also. People are moving out of Portland and into Clark County, but it won't be long before they will be going outside this county for even better economic odds. Where is Clark County going to house those folks with higher incomes coming to live in our communities? There has been far too much focus on low income subsidized housing and not enough focus on affordable homes for working class people.

The Growth Management Act, pushed through by Busse Nutley, Betty Sue Morris, Maria Cantwell, Jay Insley, Joe King and others in the legislature, is poor planning at its best. People do not want to live in apartments for the rest of their lives. We are not a socialistic country that confines its people like

animals. Our citizens want choices and the freedom to chose how they live their lives. Given that freedom, they will be happy and productive members of society, and that is what Clark County needs.

Clark County's economy was booming, before the GMA, but not any more. Even so, the "bottoms up" promise, within its text, should be used by Clark County to the maximum possible, when it comes to planning for its people. Just as the county has a diverse group of citizens, there has to be the ability for those folks to use that diversity to grow and enhance the economy within their communities throughout the county.

Clark County must stop being the dumping ground and bedroom community for Portland, Oregon. Instead of using our commercial land for apartments, warehouses, and storage units, the county needs to focus on jobs, jobs and jobs. There is lots of that land in the county to create good paying jobs, and the county needs to use it.

Sincerely,

Carol Levanen, Exec. Secretary

Clark County Citizens United, Inc.

P.O. Box 2188

Battle Ground, Washington 98604

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/urban-doom-loop-portland-metro-011048686.html>

['Urban doom loop': Portland Metro Chamber economy report paints grim picture](#)





'Urban doom loop': Portland Metro Chamber economy report paints grim pic...

The Portland Metro Chamber delivered a sobering report about the city's economy Thursday morning, delving into d...

Clark County Citizens United, Inc. P.O. Box 2188 Battle Ground, Washington 98604 E-Mail cccuinc@yahoo.com