

From: [Jeffrey Delapena](#)
To: "Claire Manning"
Cc: [Oliver Orjiako](#); [Jose Alvarez](#); [Rebecca Messinger](#)
Subject: RE: Comprehensive plan: Ridgefield testimony
Date: Friday, January 9, 2026 8:34:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Good day, Claire,

Thank you for providing this feedback related to the Joint Hearing to select the Preferred Land Use Alternative for the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update.

I am forwarding to additional members of Staff. Your comments will be brought to the attention of the Planning Commission and Council ahead of the continuation of the Hearing on Jan. 15th. This will also be added to the Index of Record.

Best,



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From: Claire Manning <cemanning0413@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 8, 2026 9:10 PM
To: Jeffrey Delapena <Jeffrey.Delapena@clark.wa.gov>; Claire Manning <cemanning0413@gmail.com>
Subject: Comprehensive plan: Ridgefield testimony

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Claire Manning

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We are a small family farm located along Gee Creek, now surrounded on nearly all sides by development. As growth continues, our land has become one of the last remaining open agricultural and natural spaces in the area. Preserving agricultural land within the urban growth plan acquisition is deeply important to us—not only for our livelihood, but for the health of the land, the wildlife that depends on it, and the people who will inherit this place after us.

Our farm provides vital habitat and a living connection to the natural systems that once defined this region. Protected land along Gee Creek supports wildlife corridors, clean water, and resilient ecosystems that cannot be replaced once lost. Just as importantly, it offers future generations the opportunity to form a meaningful relationship with the land—one that builds empathy, stewardship, and a responsibility to protect our earth.

We also run a small nature-based program for young children on our farm. Through hands-on experiences, children learn where their food comes from, how ecosystems function, and what it means to care for living land. If agricultural land like ours is not preserved, we lose these opportunities. We reduce the ability for people to understand local food systems, weaken community resilience, and further disconnect people from the sources of their nourishment.

Protecting agricultural land within the urban growth plan is an investment in wildlife, local food security, education, and the long-term well-being of our community. Once this land is gone, it is gone forever. We urge you to preserve it—for the land, for the children, and for generations yet to come.

Thank you

Claire