

From: [Jeffrey Delapena](#)
To: "Ananda Isaksen"
Cc: [Oliver Oriako](#); [Jose Alvarez](#); [Rebecca Messinger](#)
Subject: RE: Keep Ag lands
Date: Thursday, January 15, 2026 8:16:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Good day, Ananda,

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 tonight's continuation of the Hearing. This will also be added to the Index of Record.

Best,



Jeff Delapena
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From: Ananda Isaksen <anandaisaksen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 5:37 PM
To: Jeffrey Delapena <Jeffrey.Delapena@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: Keep Ag lands

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I'm Ananda Isaksen a current resident of Ridgefield and I am opposed to Ridgefield 's new development plan. There are fewer and fewer places to grow food, and fewer fields to absorb water slowly to replenish the aquifers. Paving over farmland to grow in population for the sake of growing smacks of greed and hubris. Cutting the nose off to spite the the face, if you will. Let's plan for 200 years down the road not just for next year.

What do we want to preserve and conserve? What will sustain a population? Far land does more than just grow food. It soaks up the rain, it provides green cover to help keep areas cooler in our hot dry summers. It provides habitats for our native species.

Ridgefield is already struggling to have enough water for its current residents. More urbanization by taking over agricultural land would stress the system to breaking.

Please consider these issues that many of us in Ridgefield feel passionately about:

1) Clark County's Preferred Alternative for the Comp Plan should reflect the county's prior decisions that **all** forecasted growth for

housing, population, and employment can be accommodated within current UGAs, meaning there is **no legal reason** to expand UGAs.

2) The combined 519 acres that Ridgefield and La Center are requesting to pave over forever are prime agricultural lands and farmlands of statewide importance. With the climate emergency underway, food security is a huge concern and we need these farmlands to build climate resilience.

3) The County is required by law to have a sufficient supply of agricultural lands to sustain a local agricultural economy. I support Friends of Clark County's [vision for agriculture in Clark County](#) to maintain and sustain a climate resilient local agricultural economy.

4) The Agricultural Lands Study found that **all** currently designated agricultural resource lands provide long-term commercial significance to the agricultural industry using the criteria outlined in Washington State law (WAC 365-190-050). In fact, "96 percent of the Agricultural Designations (31,400 acres) are classified as Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance." These lands represent an invaluable community resource as we consider the need to feed our growing population, local food security and climate change resiliency, and the future of the farming industry and jobs in the agricultural sector as a whole. Therefore, the findings of this study indicate there is no justification for de-designating the agricultural lands the cities have proposed to build over.

Additional Points:

- The amount of agricultural land in Clark County has been eroded by the county's actions over the decades since the

passage of the original Comprehensive Plan. The de-designation of any agricultural land for unnecessary UGA expansions would continue to undermine the capability of our agricultural sector to rise to its highest levels of productivity, which would also undermine our communities' access to food and our successful adaptation to the climate emergency. Just as our residents need housing, population, and jobs, they also need food.

- The council should honor the [recommendations of the Agricultural Advisory Commission](#), which voted to maintain all existing agricultural designations.
- The council should consider the needs of the entire county and our collective future, not reward cities for failing to propose alternatives for their cities that do not include paving over prime farmland.
- Urbanization begets urbanization. To use encroaching development as a justification to de-designate land, you would essentially always be chipping away at agricultural land, which goes against the conservation purpose of the agricultural land designations.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration for what our future generations actually need.

Have we ever regretted preserving farmland?

Ananda Isaksen