

From: [Cnty 2025 Comp Plan](#)
To: ["Clark County Citizens United, Inc."](#); [Bart Catching](#); [Cnty 2025 Comp Plan](#); [Jose Alvarez](#); [Oliver Orjiako](#)
Cc: [Rebecca Messinger](#)
Subject: RE: Clark County Rural communities confronting GMA cap on rural growth
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2026 9:46:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good day, Susan,

Thank you for submitting this feedback in relation to the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update.

This will be entered into the Index of Record.

Best,



Jeff Delapena
Program Assistant
COMMUNITY PLANNING

564.397.4558

From: Clark County Citizens United, Inc. <cccuinc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2026 3:17 PM
To: Bart Catching <Bart.Catching@clark.wa.gov>; CommDev OA Land Use <CommDevOALandUse@clark.wa.gov>; Cnty 2025 Comp Plan <comp.plan@clark.wa.gov>; Kathleen Otto <Kathleen.Otto@clark.wa.gov>; Michelle Belkot <Michelle.Belkot@clark.wa.gov>; Matt Little <Matt.Little@clark.wa.gov>; Glen Yung <Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov>; Jose Alvarez <Jose.Alvarez@clark.wa.gov>; Wil Fuentes <Wil.Fuentes@clark.wa.gov>; Sue Marshall <Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov>; Oliver Orjiako <Oliver.Orjiako@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: Clark County Rural communities confronting GMA cap on rural growth

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Clark County Council
Clark County Community Planning

June 27, 2026

Clark County Planning Commission
P.O. Box 5000
Vancouver, Washington 98666

FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD

Re: Clark County Rural communities confronting GMA cap on rural growth

Dear Councilors, Planners, and Commissioners,

Clark County Citizens United, Inc.,(CCCU) a 501c4 non-profit representing approximately 6,000 members, believe Rural communities have been confronting a GMA and Clark County system of comprehensive growth planning that is designed to cap rural growth and limit relevant housing for this community. This is not just denying access to adequate housing. There is a long history of systemic rural housing failures that prevents rural communities from thriving.

After 32 years of stagnation, rural families have long-standing issues and suffered consequences that are reshaping this culture that you see today. There needs to be innovations, reformations and advocates that are willing to fight against destroying and reshaping this culture for our future generations of families.

Through policies and land use regulations, rural culture and character are being slowly dismantled, disrupted and displaced to other regions because of inadequate and unaffordable housing policies that affect real people. The county must know who we are and what these families are going through. These regulatory actions are inflicting personal and financial stress that strains families.

One needs only to examine how people are affected by the laws in Clark County and by the GMA. CCCU takes issue with legislators making policies and passing laws in the name of environmental protections without a thorough understanding of the human consequences.

- **What are the social and economic costs of excluding rural housing?**
- **What are the consequences of displacement?**
- **What are the housing equity questions that need to be explored?**
- **Who is paying the price of exclusionary practices?**

The county must evaluate the consequences not only for effectiveness and efficiencies but recognize what critical aspects of the rural culture is being lost.

Rural communities are feeling the effects of the housing shortage set in motion 35 years ago. Rural people make up nearly 50% of the county's population. Yet have been allocated down to 2% of the growth because of the lack of access to buildable parcels for relevant housing. This was baked into the county growth plan, with the limitations on the land and unaffordability of rural housing based on environmental restrictions. We're effectively seeing these folks shut out of their entire culture, shut out from living a lifestyle that is historic, and changed to one that is not recognized. This may be formalized discrimination and there is no approved policy for that. That is truly alarming.

50 years ago, rural county communities were thriving and going places. Now, there's no land, expensive land and unaffordable housing. There's no staff that are culturally competent to understand the negative consequences. The county should be trying to stabilize housing in rural areas where our ancestors farmed, logged and homesteaded. Had housing destabilization occurred 50 years ago, there was in place adequate supplies of parcels for decent housing to help remedy the problem. But that's not what we are seeing now. The question is, what did we lose with the GMA and Clark County's land use zoning laws? Housing and equity.

Sincerely,

Susan Rasmussen, President

Clark County Citizens United, Inc.

P.O. Box 2188

Vancouver, Washington, 98604

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

