From:	Cnty 2025 Comp Plan
To:	odinsdad@gmail.com; Cnty 2025 Comp Plan
Subject:	RE: Comprehensive Plan Update Comments
Date:	Thursday, October 1, 2026 3:44:02 PM
Attachments:	image001.png image002.png image003.png image004.png

Hello Stephen,

Thank you very much for submitting these comments related to the 2025 Comprehensive Plan update.

Confirming this has been received and will be added to the Comprehensive Plan Index of Record. This will also be forwarded to be shared with the council prior to tonight's Hearing.

Jeff Delapena
Program Assistant
COMMUNITY PLANNING

564.397.4558

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From: Clark County <webteam@clark.wa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 2:37 PM
To: Cnty 2025 Comp Plan <comp.plan@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: Comprehensive Plan Update Comments

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Submitted on Thu, 10/01/2026 - 2:36 PM

First Name
Stephen

Last Name
Byers

Email Address
odinsdad@gmail.com

Phone Number
5039526261

Address
7621 Indiana St
Vancouver, Washington. 98664

Message Subject
Opposing PA-2

Comments
Councilors,

I'm asking you to adopt the no-change alternative for the comprehensive plan. I know this is a hard decision, but the facts make it easier than it looks.

The evidence is in, and it isn't on PA-2's side. The Growth Management Hearings Board has repeatedly invalidated agricultural de-designation. Your own land study found no need to convert farmland for growth. The state Department of Commerce agrees. That makes three authorities, all saying the same thing, and one of them is you. That study also delayed adoption and put the county out of compliance, jeopardizing state grants. Paying for the homework and then ignoring the answer is an unusual strategy.

Farmland isn't a placeholder for subdivisions. About 96% of our designated ag land is prime farmland. It also gives us migratory bird habitat, clean water, flood control, groundwater recharge, carbon storage, pollinators, and the landscape that draws people here in the first place. Once it's paved, there's no undo button.

PA-2 doesn't prevent sprawl. It is sprawl. Ridgefield, La Center, and Battle Ground say they urgently need land for housing, yet most of what they've built has been low density. If the need were truly urgent, they'd be building up, not out. And yes, farmland is already being lost to development. That's an argument for protecting it harder, which is why I urge the council to pursue a Public Benefit Rating System so this land isn't valued only by what a developer will pay for it.

We've seen this movie before. In 2016, the council expanded Ridgefield's urban growth area against official recommendations. Now Ridgefield points to that expansion to justify taking more farmland. Bad decisions shouldn't become the precedent for worse ones.

The public has spoken, repeatedly. More than a dozen community organizations and many residents have asked you to keep the no-change alternative. These are the same voters you court every election season.

Paving irreplaceable farmland for a short-term cash grab isn't conservative, and it isn't responsible. The facts support the no-change alternative. Please vote for it.

Sincerely,
Steve Byers

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