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SAN JUAN COUNTY COUNCIL

5/30/17

San Juan County Council and members of the Planning Commission
Court House 350
Court St #1
Friday Harbor WA 98250

Dear All,

It seems like almost yesterday that we were all, or at least some of us, busily involved with the GMA. Growth, development, rural communities, and the putting of growth into established communities and controlling sprawl.

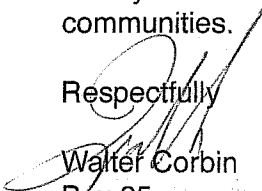
I remember the statement that was on the plaque at the County Administration Building, long since removed, that declared it was the intent of San Juan County and its people to preserve the rural nature of the County.

Obviously now up for discussion is - did we and are we intent on preserving the rural nature of our County? What is rural? What growth can we control to keep the County rural in nature? Are we actively directing growth into established communities, towns and hamlets? Do we want growth that is only determined by availability and cost? What are the limiting factors of growth? Water, ferries, infrastructure? How is the proximity of large populated main land towns and cities affecting the pressures of development in the County. What are reasonable measures that the County can legally take to preserve the County's vision of itself as a rural dedicated community. What are some of the benefits that the County inures by lack of development and a predominance of meadows, woods and uncluttered shorelines? What problems arise when there is uncontrolled development?

I think it extremely important that the County undertake a concerted effort to hold meetings in the coming and fall months to analyze and discuss with the citizens of the County how we can preserve our rural heritage and accommodate acceptable levels of growth.

The planned growth of our County must be in synch with the reason that many of us came here. It must address the hard issues of continual land development and the rights of property owners and the critical nature of housing for people that support our communities. It must look primarily at ways to codify why most of us came here and were not equally drawn to main land communities.

Respectfully


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cc:Community Development and Planning