

Adam Zack

From: Katie Wilkins <katieannwilkins@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 2:58 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: add agriculture to comp plan vision statement

Dear Members of the SJC Planning Commission,

I would like to request the addition of a new stand-alone section to the Vision Statement dedicated to Agriculture.

I have been involved with agriculture in one capacity or another since moving to Orcas 11 years ago to take a job at Maple Rock Farm. The relationships I formed, many of them with other farmers and gardeners, and the connection I felt to the land are what has kept me here.

Any vision for long-term community in a place that does not include a plan for how people will feed themselves from that place is woefully incomplete. In a time of climate change, political instability, and dwindling oil supplies, creating a vibrant local agriculture is much more than a quaint tourist attraction, it is necessary for our continued existence as a community.

I would like the Vision Statement to show that agriculture is a priority by devoting a stand-alone section to the subject.

Why this is important:

Existing references to agriculture are scattered between several of the Vision Statement elements but there is no statement that accurately reflects the importance of agriculture to our community.

There were abundant comments during the Vision Statement interviews, pop-up studios and workshops that demonstrate the community's desire to take bold measures to strengthen our local agricultural economy. Our updated Vision should reflect that desire.

Thank you for your consideration,

Katie Wilkins