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LONG RANGE
PLANNING DIVISION

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5625 Whitehorn Way
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Whatcom County Planning Commission
Whatcom County Council
Pete Kremen, Whatcom County Executive

September 17, 2009

Dear Members and Mr. Kremen,

I would first like to express my appreciation for the County Executive's decision to make a revised recommendation on September 9, 2009 regarding the Birch Bay UGA. I would, however, like to request that the provisional zoning, under ordinance 2004-049, be repealed. The provisional zoning, as outlined by the Executive, at the Alderson Road location has proven unworkable over the last five years. Due to the difficulty presented by this zoning, those of us who live in the southern half of the bay still have no easily accessible services – we either have to drive though the bay, or to Ferndale, Custer, or Blaine – no town center has been built. Rather than putting off dealing with this issue to the future, I would ask that you deal with it and the Birch Bay UGA concurrently.

When we, I am a former member of the Birch Bay Community Planning Commission, made the designation of the commercial nodes around the UGA, we envisioned reducing traffic in addition to providing easily accessible services to all of the members of our community, affordable housing, and keeping our best asset, Birch Bay, open and easily accessible to the visitors who are the life blood of the businesses located along the bay.

I know that all of you have worked hard on these issues and I only ask that you recognize the hard work and thought that those of us who live at Birch Bay put into our plan. Everybody had to work together over a period of several years to come up with a plan that was eventually accepted by the County Council.

Respectfully,
Stuart Pennington
Birch Bay

