



816 Second Ave, Suite 200, Seattle, WA 98104  
p. (206) 343-0681  
futurewise.org



October 13, 2022

Kelvin Barton, Chair  
Whatcom County Planning Commission  
ATTN: Tammy Axlund  
5280 Northwest Drive  
Bellingham, Washington 98226

Dear Chair Barton and Planning Commissioners:

**Subject:** Comments for the public hearings on the Buildable Lands Report: 2022 Whatcom County Review and Evaluation Program (issued July 7, 2022) and the proposed Public Participation Plan for Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulation Amendments.

Sent via email to: [PDS\\_Planning\\_Commission@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:PDS_Planning_Commission@co.whatcom.wa.us)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Buildable Lands Report and the proposed Public Participation Plan for the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulation Amendments. We recommend that the Planning Commission recommend approval of both documents. We do have a suggestion for the Public Participation Program. Our recommendations are discussed below.

Futurewise works throughout Washington State to support land-use policies that encourage healthy, equitable, and opportunity-rich communities, and that protect our most valuable farmlands, forests, and water resources. Futurewise has members across Washington State including Whatcom County.

**Futurewise suggests the Planning Commission should recommend approval of the Buildable Lands Report: 2022 Whatcom County Review and Evaluation Program (issued July 7, 2022).**

Futurewise has reviewed the Buildable Lands Report and has concluded that it accurately analyzes recent growth trends and the availability of developable land in Whatcom County. Futurewise appreciates that the county staff invited comments from interested members of the public including Futurewise and we





appreciate that the staff considered our comments. We recommend that the Planning Commission recommend approval of the Buildable Lands Report.

## **Comments on the Public Participation Plan for the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulation Amendments.**

Futurewise also supports the proposed Public Participation Plan. We recommend that the sections 4.2.1. Approach on page 4-2, 4.3.1. Approach on page 4-4, and 4.4.1. Approach on page 4-5 provide that the various county bodies will accept the transfer of documents supporting public comments and intended for the record by Dropbox, Box, and similar file transfer protocols that do not require a payment for the county to transfer the documents. The electronic transfer of record documents is quick and economical for the county and the public and allows the county to maintain the documents in an electronic format making them easier to store, distribute, and work with.

Thank you for considering our comments. If you require additional information, please contact Tim Trohimovich at telephone (206) 343-0681 Ext. 102 or email: [tim@futurewise.org](mailto:tim@futurewise.org).

Very Truly Yours,

Tim Trohimovich, AICP  
Director of Planning & Law

