

Whatcom Environmental Council

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Former Whatcom County Council

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February 24, 2025

TO: Whatcom County Council

Subject: ORDINANCE AMENDING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE CHAPTER
2.123 - FORESTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dear Council Members,

On behalf of the Whatcom Environmental Council, I would like to express our support for the proposed changes to the Forestry Advisory Committee (FAC). The FAC has played a valuable role in providing insights and information on the state of forestry in Whatcom County, particularly regarding the need to maintain a sustainable working forest land base that supports our renewable forest economy.

Since the FAC was created, the County and the City of Bellingham have acquired more forest lands, and there is a growing recognition of the need to manage our forests to mitigate and offset the effects of climate change. The proposed adjustments to the scope and composition of the FAC will help broaden its perspective for the whole range of forest benefits, and promote a more coordinated approach to managing the diverse forested areas in Whatcom County, ensuring that they provide a wide range of ecological, economic, and community benefits.

Additionally, the Forest Resilience Task Force that you created has recognized the importance of improved collaboration and coordination in forest management. These proposed changes to the FAC align with that goal and will serve as a strong foundation for future efforts in forest resilience and sustainability while maintaining our forest economy.

We strongly support these proposed changes and urge you to pass them in a timely manner.

Sincerely,



Carl Weimer, President
Whatcom Environmental Council