

SPONSORED BY: Planning  
PROPOSED BY: Planning  
INTRODUCTION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION # \_\_\_\_\_**

**DECLARING THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT FOR THE UPDATE TO  
THE RURAL LAND STUDY TO IDENTIFY AREAS DESERVING  
HEIGHTENED AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION MEASURES**

WHEREAS, the Agricultural Advisory Committee was established under Whatcom County Ordinance 2001-036 and is governed by Whatcom County Code Chapter 2.34; and

WHEREAS, the Agricultural Advisory Committee is to provide review and recommendations to the Whatcom County Council on issues that affect agriculture, including assistance with establishment, promotion, and implementation of a comprehensive agricultural protection program; and

WHEREAS, the county has identified 100,000 acres as being the minimum acreage needed in farming to support a viable agriculture industry in Whatcom County (RES 2009-040); and

WHEREAS, the county has identified areas outside the roughly 87,500-acre Agriculture zone where agricultural land protection efforts should be strengthened (RES 2009-040); and

WHEREAS, the Agricultural Advisory Committee and staff were requested by the county to recommend options that strengthen farm land preservation policies in these areas (RES 2009-040); and

WHEREAS, the county has requested the Agricultural Advisory Committee's 2009 list of tools and strategies be further developed with recommendations made that enable implementation of these tools (RES 2009-040); and

WHEREAS, County Council adopted the 2018 Agriculture Strategic Plan (RES 2018-027) to support the goals of farmland preservation and to support the agricultural industry in Whatcom County; and

WHEREAS, the Agricultural Advisory Committee conducted open public meetings in 2018-2019 to develop an update to the Rural Land Study to more accurately identify priority areas outside of the Agriculture Zone; and

WHEREAS, the Agricultural Advisory Committee unanimously voted to endorse the 2019 Rural Land Study Update on May 22, 2019; and

WHEREAS, members of the Agricultural Advisory Committee and staff discussed the Rural Land Study Update with the County Council at the September 24, 2019 Natural Resources Committee meeting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Whatcom County Council hereby endorses this Rural Land Study Update, and commits the time and resources necessary for development and implementation of heightened agricultural protection measures as proposed by the Agricultural Advisory Committee during its 2019 -2020 season; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council affirms the important role of the Agricultural Advisory Committee and Agriculture Program staff in developing recommendations for appropriate code changes and comprehensive plan amendments as identified in the Whatcom County Agricultural Strategic Plan and supporting documents such as the Rural Land Study Update.

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019

**ATTEST:**

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
**WHATCOM COUNTY,  
WASHINGTON**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

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Rud Browne, Chairman

APPROVED as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Civil Deputy Prosecutor