

September 13, 2013

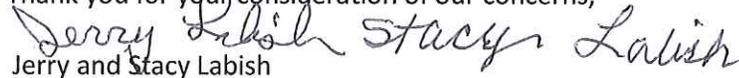
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SEP 13 2013
CITY OF MONROE

Dear Monroe Planning Commission,

We have lived in the Skykomish Valley for over 25 years. In this time it has been apparent that as we leave the Monroe City limits, there is a natural break at the east end of town. As you crest the hill, the "Mountains to Sound Scenic Byway" naturally begins by the break that exists with the end of the city limits and the commencement of the agricultural lands. With the proposed rezone we feel that any reduction in the acreage designated as agricultural land compromises the position of those of us currently engaged in Ag production here in the east Monroe area. It is relevant to note that the reduction of local Agriculture land reduces our ability to feed the local population. The local and sustainable movement is driven by our local Ag producers, this movement is critical to the reduction of our carbon footprint and the reliance on fossil fuels. Feeding the local community by utilizing local producers is not possible when local Ag land is taken out of potential productivity, by being paved over or built up.

With the proposed rezone the increased traffic expected, due to increased development, would negatively impact the ability for agricultural producers to efficiently maintain our Ag enterprises. Without effective transportation upgrades the frequent slow moving equipment, common in agricultural areas, would be dangerous for the agricultural producers as well as the general public.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns,



Jerry and Stacy Labish

Ag Producer and Snohomish Ag Board Member

16603 275th Ave SE