Monday, June 27, 2011

Dear Growth Management Planning Council of King County,

Revisions to Countywide Planning Policies which limit the ability for new schools to connect to sewer in the rural area will have drastic and longterm consequences for the Tahoma School District. Tahoma is a large district that serves both rural and urban residents. Our area has seen tremendous growth in the last decade, and will continue to grow. Our schools are already full. We have one site, in the rural area next to the Junior High, to develop a new, and needed, elementary school.

The numbers speak for themselves; currently 57% of our students are living in the urban area and 43% live in the rural area. And yet, six of our eight schools are located in the urban area and only two are in the rural area. 75% of district students go to schools located in the urban area. We are bussing rural kids into the urban area for their education. There is great inequity in rural school facilities, and this proposal to eliminate sewer connections only makes it worse.

Please keep the existing language that allows an exemption for sewer connections to new schools. Our kids deserve it.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bennett
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