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AHBL, INC.

February 5, 2008

Brad Medrud
Planning Project Manager
AHBL
2215 North 30th Street
Suite 300
Tacoma, Washington 98403-3350

RE: South Lake Stevens "Visioning"

Dear Mr. Medrud;

My husband and I own property located at 4225 87th Avenue SE, Snohomish, Washington. We live in on the lake within the Lake Stevens UGA. While my address is attached so that you may verify that my family lives locally, I require that you redact it from the copy of this letter that you publish in your final report, as I am concerned about how my family may be treated by the members of the Lake Stevens political and business community as retribution for speaking out against the LS-1 proposal.

I am writing with regard to the "Visioning Process" that your firm is conducting with regard to the proposed LS-1 comprehensive plan amendment to expand Lake Stevens UGA all the way to US2.

After reviewing all of the documentation and plan methodology that your firm and the City of Lake Stevens has developed, I have substantive concerns that the proposed Visioning process and approach is intended to avoid addressing the specific concerns of residents in this area, namely resolving the basic questions – once and for all – of whether (i) where do the residents of this area currently and historically affiliate with; and (ii) which governing city (Lake Stevens or Snohomish) do the property owners and residents of this area prefer to be eventually governed by?

The answers to these two questions are simple: "Snohomish". But it is ironic to note that your "Visioning process" avoids either asking these questions and conveniently attempts to avoid getting those answers.

Your client has been attempting for the past 2 years to prevent Snohomish from expanding to the north by making a counter-proposal to Snohomish County for urban expansion. It is widely known that the City of Lake Stevens has ample 20 year land supply to meet its growth objectives and fundamentally no basis or justification for urban growth area expansion. But it persists in attempting to stop Snohomish's proposed expansion, out of greed and misplaced political judgment. It has become apparent to most people in the Lake Stevens community and the proposed UGA expansion area that because the City of Lake Stevens does not have any valid justification whatsoever for continuing its attempt to block the Snohomish proposal, that it must result to gimmicks to try to prop up its position. So no one is really surprised by this "vision process" and no

one is fooled by how Lake Stevens is manipulating it, and what and how Lake Stevens intends to use it.

The Lake Stevens City Council on numerous occasions over the past 2 years held "special council meetings" so that they can attend both City of Snohomish Council meetings and Snohomish County Council meetings on this subject and to listen to testimony of the public. They have also held testimony in their own council chambers, At all of these meetings, there has never been a single property owner or resident of the RUTA area that has expressed their desire for either Lake Stevens to expand their UGA to the south, or their desire to be governed by Lake Stevens either now or in the future. Please explain to us what you and the City of Lake Stevens do not understand about this?

Didn't you do your own research before your firm elected to take the City of Lake Stevens limited tax dollars? If you did, you would not need to do this "visioning process" to understand how people feel about this. Or are you trying to ignore this prior testimony and "paint over it", in hopes that the true picture is disguised?

Rather, these people (including my family) have written countless letters and testified countless times that (i) this is a Snohomish neighborhood, both now and historically; and (ii) that we wish in the long term to be governed by Snohomish. We have testified enough – isn't it time that the elected leaders and administration of the City of Lake Stevens start to listen and respect our decision and judgment? How many more times does your client need to hear this in order to understand it?

The Lake Stevens visioning process is like someone trying to lure a child with candy. You and the Lake Stevens administration are attempting to create a false impression that this area is a Lake Stevens neighborhood and wants to be governed by Lake Stevens, merely by talking about broad topics like land uses, parks and services, all without addressing the core issue itself. That is not a fair, responsible, professional or unbiased consulting process. It is a biased, egotistical self-vision of the City of Lake Stevens that has nothing to do with the reality or vision of the people who live and own property here, with your firm, AHLB, as the hired gun to mislead people, manipulate their opinions and create a report which results in a false conclusion.

I am a parent. I hope you have a child, Mr. Medrud. I hope that you understand how you would feel if someone continued to force themselves upon you or your child, after you or your child have politely said "no" many times. I hope you understand how it would feel that after telling someone "no – leave me alone" on many occasions, they went out and paid money to a third party to do their "dirty work" for them so that they appear clean. That is what your firm is doing in this instance – being complicit in someone else's desire to cause pain and damage to others, where no justification exists and the only motivation is greed – the greed of a current and ex-mayor for more power and more land. At what point does this political molestation become something more?

As a resident of the Lake Stevens community, I am enraged by the thought that, rather than spending its very limited tax dollars to provide adequate services to its own population and complete the annexation and development of its existing UGA, the City of

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Lake Stevens elected officials are wasting approximately 5% to 10% of its annual taxpayer dollars to have a firm like yours attempt to politically justify a UGA expansion that does not meet the mandate of the GMA or the Snohomish county comprehensive plan, especially when the residents and property owners have already repeatedly said "No". This is not responsible government.

I would prefer that the City of Lake Stevens elected officials start spending their money within the City, on the roads, sidewalks and other things that our citizens currently need. The \$150,000 (or more) being given to your firm on a political boondoggle is inappropriate and contains no wisdom. Your firm should have the guts to do the right thing and turn this consulting engagement down, as it is neither morally or ethically clean.

Please include a copy of this correspondence in your final report and add it wholly to the record in the County EIS currently being performed on the LS-1 proposal. Since I (and many others that I have spoken with, both in the Lake Stevens community and inside the boundaries of the LS-1 proposal) am concerned that you and the elected officials of Lake Stevens will not properly convey our issues and positions, I am cc'd a copy of this letter to all Lake Stevens council members and all members of the Snohomish County council.

Lastly, based upon your resume presented to Lake Stevens to get this expensive and wasteful consulting engagement, it is clear that you and your team are experienced and knowledgeable in the growth management act and what comprehensive plans and county-wide planning policies mean and how they are implemented. Accordingly, it will be less than honest if your "Visioning" report does not contain specific language which concludes (i) that Lake Stevens has no technical basis or justification for urban growth area expansion; (ii) has adequate land supply within its UGA to accommodate its 20 year growth; and (iii) rather than attempt to expand its UGA, should work to better manage and provide services to the residents they already have.

Yours Truly,

Cynthia Reeks
815 South Lake Stevens Road
Lake Stevens, Washington 98258

cc: County Council Chairman Dave Somers
County Council Member Mike Cooper
County Councilmember Dave Gossett
County Councilmember John Koster
County Councilmember Brian Sullivan
Snohomish County Senior Planner Will Hall

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Lake Stevens Council Chair Neil Dooley
Lake Stevens Councilmember Heather Coleman
Lake Stevens Councilmember Karen Holder
Lake Stevens Councilmember Suzan Quigley
Lake Stevens Councilmember Mark Cross
Lake Stevens Councilmember Tom Hartwell
Lake Stevens Councilmember John Spencer