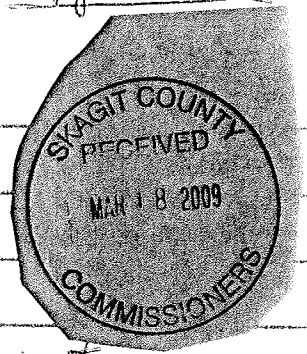


3/18/09

Cover Page with 5 pgs to follow

To: The Planning Commission



This is in regards to The UGA
Open Space Concept Plan.

~~###~~ A maintenance easement does not give you the right to change the use to a public use. Has the U.S. Constitution become irrelevant? You are, it seems, trying to change a ~~maintenance~~^{tenance} easement into a right of ownership for the UGA.

Isn't it amazing that 200 calls placed to your commission can institute a land grab? Where's the personal land-owner notification by certified letter? Not everyone spends their every waking hour reading up on new proposals on the Internet for Skagit County.

Also, when someone chooses to give up their development rights on their farmland to Skagitians to Preserve Farmland for another entity like it, will you now be grabbing the rights to that land as well? We need an answer to this immediately.

Please read the following letter of some of the incidents that have occurred on our farm & our concerns.

3/18/09

-1-

To: The Planning Commission

^{simply}

① Crop duster^{simply} flew over our farm ~~having left~~ from his airport enroute to a farm up North. I get a frantic phone call "What did you spray? I'm sick!"
I ~~had~~ hadn't sprayed a thing!

② While spreading manure ~~on~~ a man, a neighbor on the city side of my property, came up to me ~~on my way~~ while we were spreading & said he was going to go home & get his gun & kill me because he didn't like the odor. Thankfully his wife calmed him down.

③ Young man flying radio controlled air plane crashes it in my corn field - goes into the field looking for it - ends up in ER - his eyes are swollen shut - his irate father calls me up wondering what I sprayed on the field. The corn was organically grown - NO SPRAY! The young man was just allergic to the pollen.

④ I get a call from USDA - they pulled all our spray records & the spray records of every com'l. operator in the valley. It seems one of the neighbors was watering his flowers & felt a spray mist

When a helicopter flew over. At that time the only helicopters flying around were Navy helicopters. The USDA still sent the man's shirt in for chemical analysis - with ~~the~~ NEGATIVE Results!

(5) A neighbor calls me saying I have to repaint his car. He says a spray plane sprayed his car - he was about 1/4 mile from my farm - drift is impossible to go that far! His car was parked under a tree - it was clearly tree sap!

(6) A neighbor lady called me saying "I don't know what you sprayed on your field, but it caused me to have my hysterectomy."

(7) While ~~liming~~ spreading lime on a field some lime dust got on a neighbor's roof. He became hysterical saying I ruined his whole house. He threatened me with personal injury. He finally calmed down after much explanation.

(8) A neighbor called me saying several people had stolen a whole pick-up full of sweet corn from my field. When I ~~confronted~~ confronted them they told me that it didn't cost me anything to grow it - the corn just grows, it's free! (Yea, right!)

9) While spreading manure, Northwest Air Pollution comes out numerous times. It even made the Skagit Valley Herald that I was spreading manure. I was informed by Northwest Air Pollution that I was a farm under surveillance. I was turned into the EPA, the Health Dept., the USDA by various city folks for simple, common farming practices. I was never fined or told that I couldn't do what I was doing. But, each call they made had to be investigated (talk about feeling like a criminal).

10) Numerous complaints about dust & noise. All of these complaints were unfounded but I still had to meet with each agency & be investigated.

11) Numerous acts (we've lost count) of vandalism to our lawn & driveway. The Sheriff's dept. hears from us regularly.

12) Numerous incidents of crop damage by automobiles.

13) Young woman (18-25 yrs.) gets out of a Van driven by an older couple (who parked on our drive next to our lawn), urinates next to the wheel of a trailer we had parked parallel to the road.

(14) Two guys & a girl (all 18-20yrs) drove onto our farm, parking next to our field with growing crops, got out with their dog & began ~~to~~ running thru the crops.

(15) A man (25-30yrs) stopped on our property. When told he was on private property he said that it wasn't since there was a picnic table on our lawn (next to our house). He said he would leave when he finished his nap! After all he said this was a park!

(16) Person(s) Vandalized a store (Fall 2008), stealing a cash register - came onto our property in the middle of the night - broke it open behind our equipment - leaving the broken cash register here. The Sheriff was called.

(17) Nov. 25, 2008 my truck was burglarized - stealing all the bells & whistles. Sheriff ^{was} called.

(18) The grove of trees that border my farm ~~on~~ to the North is habitat for many undesirable activities & people. People walk in & out of these trees onto our property. Even gun shots have come from this area. Mt Vernon police say the land is in the county. The Sheriffs don't want to take care of it because there's no easy access. So nothing's got = resolved.

Anyone injured on our property while trespassing is the liability of the property owner.

These incidents we're telling you about are only a small part of what we have to endure on an ongoing basis. The time spent on these incidents & money lost is an outrage.

~~My~~ My farm is the 1st farm out of town & all these incidents are happening ever more frequently & now you wish to subject ALL the homeowners & farms in our area to this & more?

Respectfully,

John J. DeVlieger
Sheryl L. DeVlieger

360-424-9173 Home phone

John J. & Sheryl L. DeVlieger 16907 Britt Rd., Mt. Vernon, WA 98273

cc: Ron Wesen, Commissioner

Sharon Dillen, Commissioner

Ken Dahlstedt, Commissioner

Alma Roxema, Skagitians to Preserve Farmland

Annie Lehman, Planning Commissioner

Gary Jones, A-Hornes