

Peter Gill

From: Chris Barker <chris@terramarcraft.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 10:18 AM
To: PDS comments
Subject: Skagit County Planning Commission Public Comment Jun 16th, 2020

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Skagit County Planning Commission, et all,

March 15th of this year Terramar Brewstillery was shut down by Governor Inslee's mandate to control the Covid-19 outbreak. Since then we have been operating as an essential business providing food and beverage takeout and delivery services to the local community. While we are thankful to be able to operate with a limited staff in this capacity, doing so comes at a financial loss. Unless we can operate at 80% capacity or above, we are not financially sustainable.

Now that we have shifted to Phase 2 of the governors "Safe Start Plan" we have been able reopen the indoor tasting room at 50% capacity. While this helps with sales volumes the extra staffing that is required to manage the required health and safety protocols has nullified that benefit.

As we look to the future we will most certainly live in a different social context for gathering places such and breweries and restaurants. We and many other establishments do not have the interior space to create the volume of sales required and simultaneously maintain social distancing. Many Washington municipalities and cities have allowed outdoor seating to make up the loss of indoor seating and help those business survive.

Fortunately, here at Terramar we reside on a property with approximately 5 acres and has the potential to include a portion of it for seating. If currently placed conditions were lifted and outdoor spaces were made available, Terramar would be able to provide a safe community gathering place while also maintaining the volume of business required for financial stability.

We know there will be a short fall in the Skagit budget due Covid-19 related restrictions. If you give business the tools to survive this pandemic, the county in turn would benefit from the addition tax revenue. We ask that Skagit county planning be flexible enough to allow Terramar and other business to open available exterior areas for seating and help us survive during these difficult times.

Sincerely,

Chris Barker
Proprietor, Engineer, Brewer, and Distiller
Terramar Brewing and Distilling, LLC
Phone 360.510.6747
5712 Gilkey Ave
Edison, WA 98232
www.terramarcraft.com