

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING TITLE 14 AGRITOURISM DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, Preserving agricultural land has been a land use planning priority in Skagit County since adoption of the first Skagit County Comprehensive Plan in 1965; and

WHEREAS, The Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) promotes agricultural land preservation by requiring local governments to designate and protect natural resource lands, including farmlands of long-term commercial significance; and

WHEREAS, The Agricultural Resource Lands section of the 2025 Skagit County Comprehensive Plan establishes policies that ensure the long-term stability and productivity of the county's agricultural lands and industries; and

WHEREAS, Planning and Development Services established a Community Advisory Group to develop Agritourism policy recommendations. Based on input from the Community Advisory Group and the Agricultural Advisory Board, Skagit County developed draft Agritourism code amendments that were reviewed by the Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, The amendments allow agritourism uses while also preserving working farmland, diversify farm income, increasing public awareness and appreciation of agriculture, and enhancing farm viability; and

WHEREAS, The proposed amendments were reviewed for consistency with applicable Growth Management Hearings Board and court decisions; and

WHEREAS, The initial draft code amendments were released to the public for comment to the Planning Commission from September 25, 2025, to October 16, 2025; and

WHEREAS, A public hearing was held by the Planning Commission to receive public testimony on October 14, 2025; and

WHEREAS, The Planning Commission deliberated and issued a Recorded Motion and recommendation for approval of the Agritourism Development Regulations, with suggested amendments on January 27, 2026 (**Attachment 1**); and

WHEREAS, A second public comment period was held from March 26, 2026, through April 15, 2026, and a second public hearing was held by the Board of County Commissioners on April 13, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Skagit County issued a Determination of Non-Significance under the State Environmental Policy Act for the amendments on September 25, 2025; and

WHEREAS, The Board of County Commissioners has reviewed the public comments and the Planning Commission Recorded Motion.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Section 1. SCC Title 14 of the Skagit County Code is hereby amended as shown in **Attachment 2**.

DATED this ___ day of _____, 2026.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Ron Wesen, Chair

Peter Browning, Commissioner

Joe Burns, Commissioner

Attest:

Clerk of the Board

Approved as to form:

Approved as to Content:

Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Department Head