



Office of the Mayor

August 28, 2020

PSRC
Josh Brown
Via email

Re: Proposed amendments to VISION 2050 final document

Dear Josh:

Introduction

The City of North Bend, through advocacy from the Sound Cities Association and direct contact with PSRC, has proposed on several occasions the amendment to several sections of VISION 2050 that contain language containing wording which appears to have contradictions to the Growth Management Act. These contradictions could lead to the perception that PSRC has the ability as a Metropolitan Planning Organization to use regional plans and their derived growth allocations as tools to meter housing and jobs growth within municipalities which contain urban growth areas and their plans under the GMA. Through past actions of the PSRC, and the current content of VISION 2050, the City of North Bend has concern VISION 2050 will be used in an attempt to usurp local land use authority from our elected officials.

The amendments requested below are derived from a list of requested amendments sent to PSRC during the VISION 2050 process in the form of mayoral letters, including:

- August 20, 2019 letter from Former Mayor Ken Hearing;
- September 16, 2019 letter from City of Snoqualmie's Mayor Larson;
- March 25, 2020 letter from Mayor McFarland;
- March 31, 2020 letter from Mayor McFarland, addressing the VISION 2050 FEIS.

Of highest importance is for the Vision 2050 document to be rock solid in alignment with GMA in regard to clarify that all targets are "minimum targets" to avoid anyone implying or proposing what would be growth caps (maximums or any other synonyms). The term "growth targets" is found in the current version of VISION 2050 44 times, including the definition of "Target." This is amendment 1 below. We also propose three other clarifications/corrections which will strengthen the overall document. These are offered as Amendment 2.

Amendment 1 Proposed:

Revise the wording throughout VISION 2050 by replacing the wording “growth targets” with “minimum growth targets”.

Amendment 2 Proposed:

Revise the wording in VISION 2050 as follows:

1. **Page 38, second paragraph, last sentence** – strike “receive” and replace with “accommodate”
2. **Page 38, third paragraph, second sentence** – please remove this entire sentence, it is inaccurate and no longer reflects the reality of free-standing cities within the region.
3. **Page 168, definition of “Target (also Growth Target)”** – Revise the definition of “Target (also Growth Target)” to better reflect state law. Specifically, RCW 36.70A.110 only states that cities should include areas and densities sufficient to permit the urban growth that is projected over the next 20 years through countywide planning, not a statute that enables countywide planning groups allocate growth to cities North Bend advocates changing the definition of “target” to match that of VISION 2040, which better reflects state law.

Yours very truly,



Mayor Rob McFarland

cc:

City of North Bend VISION 2050 Amendment Proposal

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