

P.O. Box 111
Maple Valley, WA 98038

May 3, 2017

To: Ruth Wezeman, PSRC Economic Development, rwezeman@psrc.org; RES2017comment@psrc.org
Re: DRAFT Regional Economic Strategy

Ms. Wezeman,

Please accept herein a set of detailed comments on the PSRC's DRAFT Regional Economic Strategy (RES) from the Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council (GMVUAC). We are a community council of elected citizens who reside in the unincorporated portion of Tahoma School District # 409. We represent and advocate with King County, the PSRC, WA State officials, and other organizations for the interests of the over 18,000 citizens who reside in our Rural Area.

We have completed our review of the PSRC's April 14, 2017, DRAFT Regional Economic Strategy (RES). We see the RES as an excellent high-level document that provides overarching "Goals" and a set of underlying "Strategies." However, although each "Strategy" is followed by a set of bullets--"What Needs To Happen," we would hope these would become the seed fodder for future "Action Plans." As the process moves forward, we would like to understand how the PSRC intends to followup the RES with specific actions.

While we reviewed the entire DRAFT RES, we provide detailed comments only on Section II. Goals and Strategies--the critical part of the document. We have particular interests in Strategies and Actions that both directly or indirectly impact the Rural Area. These should include:

- (1) Preserve rural lands and rural character ("Keep the Rural Area Rural"--our motto) by ensuring urban and urban-serving facilities remain in urban areas;
- (2) Sustain and help grow our local rural economies by protecting farmlands, forests, and open space, while encouraging recreational use in rural areas that is compatible with environmental interests and local culture;
- (3) Find equitable mechanisms to maintain rural transportation infrastructure that is increasingly used by urban commuters to travel to other urban areas; and
- (4) Ensure the availability of inexpensive broadband access within rural areas to facilitate telecommuting, distance learning, and small businesses that depend upon high-speed internet access

We wish to continue an open dialogue with the PSRC on the RES and its implementation, as we have been doing for some time on PSRC's VISION 2040 and Transportation 2040.

Thank you for your consideration.

Hendrick Haynes
Chair, Economic Development Committee
Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council

Steve Hiester (gmvac_chair@hotmail.com)
Chair
Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council

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