

Schroader, Kathy



From: susan rasmussen <sprazz@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2016 5:33 PM
To: susan rasmussen, Cnty 2016 Comp Plan
Subject: FW: RE: Testimony 7/5/16

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Going back to 2012, the Clark County Growing Healthier Report was an obscure political advocacy campaign backed by the planning staff, the health department, the Clark County Food System Council, and a handful of environmental and social groups.

The report implies that much-needed land to supply agricultural needs for healthy food in Clark county is not adequately regulated. The county will quickly be unable to supply the basics of local healthy food for its citizens. The controversial Report links land use regulations with a fear of a shortage of healthy food. The tone and content, of this campaign are disturbing and malicious. Now, the campaign has become one of the foundations for the 2016 comp plan update and has extenuating impacts throughout the plan.

USDA grant funds were allowed to be used to support research that led to a predetermined outcome in the Report. Grant funds did not finance honest research. The money was dedicated to supporting a document that was intended to be used to influence a malleable Council and sway local land use regulations in this update. To fund a program with USDA grants that tries to influence county legislation is not a legitimate goal and should be shocking to this Board. That is a misuse of USDA's financial assistance, and there needs to be an explanation of how the application of this grant towards lobbying activities was deemed acceptable.

The lobbying campaign also included a "Land Use Forum" at the Library that included Tim Trohimovich from Futurewise as the keynote speaker. I imagine taxpayer dollars went to support that Forum as well since the Health Department was a co-sponsor.

More than anything, this action is a bold example of exactly what CCCU has been testifying about over two years. The staff has an agenda, antagonistic to CCCU's. Whether it's overly burdensome land use regulations, non-compliance to Superior and Appellate court orders, or something as obvious as this malicious report, the rural landowners deserve honesty and fairness. Our issues should not be disadvantaged at every opportunity.

I suggest all Councilors delve into how deep the Health Department and county planning staff have been involved and how these county agencies will prevent misuse of grants in the future. CCCU faults the methods used by the Food Systems Council to rally support for the controversial Growing Healthier Report. It is absolutely shocking our tax dollars went for this report, and the Land Use Forum.

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