

Rec'd 7/26/16 from Carol Levanen - per  
cc'd - Bocc; Orjiako; + Schroeder

July 26, 2016

Clark County Board of Councilors  
P.O. Box 5000  
Vancouver, Washington 98666

For the Public Record

Dear Councilors,

A 95 year old woman insisted she wanted to sign a petition meant to stop and reconsider the 2016 Comprehensive Plan. As she pushed herself in the wheel chair to her large viewing screen, I thought about the tremendous positive impact she and her family had on Clark County and the gifts they have given to our community. Her husband and family lobbied the Washington legislature to assure the creation of Battle Ground Lake State Park. As she strained to see the enlarged signature line on the screen, I thought about how her husband was so determined the Douglas Fir had value, that he helped form the Farm Forestry Association, and market the tree to the world. As she struggled to write her name on the line, I thought about how important her son was to the creation of the Washington State University location and campus. When she said, "I hope that will help", I thought about her daughter's continuous volunteer work with the Fort Vancouver National Historical Site.

This woman, and many of those who signed the petition, are historical families of Clark County, who came here decades ago to find a better life. Many are third and fourth generations, and one man who wanted to sign, was fifth generation. This woman's children, grand children and great grand children live close by, on land she and her husband created for them. They watch over her and take care of her in the lovely log home their family built together. She is the face of those who signed the recent referendum petition.

The petition process was touted to the voters as the most important aspect of the Home Rule Charter form of government. It was to be the force that allowed the people to have more say in their county government. It was the reason voters decided to change county government, to give them more power. But, it's clear, that was not the intent of this government. Clark County is now threatening the man who dared to file a petition of grievance, on behalf of those voters who believed the sponsors of the Charter. In essence, this new government is telling the people that if you dare to voice your opinion via a legal petition, you will be punished and there will be negative consequences for your actions. This is a terrible travesty.

Government, no matter what type, is of the people, and not of the government. It is time that Clark County stops all of this foolishness and starts conducting the peoples business as the people have directed. The voters have a constitutional right to petition their government, and this county must honor that right. It makes sense to clarify the recent petition with an informal opinion by a judge, given past legal decisions. But to threaten a voter for submitting the petition, is just plain wrong. This Board of Councilors must remove any negative repercussions that were filed by county attorneys because of the referendum petition process. The voters chose the Charter, and they can chose to take it away.

Sincerely,



Carol Levanen, Exec. Secretary  
Clark County Citizens United, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2188  
Battle Ground, Washington 98604



\* 7 8 6 3 1 1 \*

**Schroader, Kathy**

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**From:** Tilton, Rebecca  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 02, 2016 3:55 PM  
**To:** Orjiako, Oliver; Schroader, Kathy  
**Subject:** Comp Plan Comments (Levanen, Rec'd July 26)  
**Attachments:** 072616\_CompPlanComments\_Carol\_Levanen.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

Attached for your records is a copy of public testimony received from Carol Levanen on July 26.

Thank you!  
Rebecca