

To: Walla Walla County Community Development Department
ATTN: Lauren Prentice, Principal Planner
310 W. Poplar Street, Suite 200
Walla Walla, WA 99362

I am writing regarding the 12 acres owned by Terry Brown
Docket Number CPA 16-002/REZ 16-001

The Walla Walla Valley has a finite amount of prime irrigated farmland. This rich, fertile ground is the backbone of our economy and part of our rural heritage. As fuel prices inevitably rise and the amount of farmland decreases, our land will be an increasingly important source of food security for our valley's residents.

According to the American Farmland Trust, our country loses over 40 acres of farm and ranch land every hour of every day. If you grant this level of development rights in this application, you would be directly contributing to the loss of farmland in our beautiful valley. Small farms like this 12 acres are part of our community's unique agricultural history, and have the potential to feed our region for generations to come.

Don't let the small acreage fool you—not all farmland is created equal. 12 acres of irrigated quality farmland so close to our urban centers is a finite resource worth saving. As stewards of an adjacent farm on 8 acres, we are profitably growing food for our community. While the size might seem small on paper compared to the total acreage in the county, our impact is significant, nutritious and delicious.

I ask that you please consider the long term implications of this zoning decision on our valley's most important resources: soil and water, and reject the application for R-60 zoning. This section of the valley cannot and should not handle more development. Our land is too valuable for it.

Thank you for hearing my concerns.



Chandler Briggs
Hayshaker Farm
329 SW 12th Street
College Place, WA 99324