

I have some concerns regarding this bill. First I've noticed that every time there is a bid to build "affordable housing," after the houses are built, they are not affordable. That is, they are not at a price that the average working person can afford. Second, I have noticed that what has become popular in the past few years is to have two homes, a summer home and a winter home. So, we have a multitude of houses that sit empty six months of the year. This phenomenon has been part of the cause of so many housing developments to be built. Expanding the urban growth boundary into farming areas will increase the amount of traffic on our roads and highways getting people to and from work, shopping centers, and other social events. All of this adds to the rising temperatures, poor air quality, and congestion.

I have a hard time understanding why people and especially legislators can't get it that farming is our most important and necessary enterprise. It is basic to everything. No community should be encroaching on farmland or forest land to build houses or any other building. In this country, I believe we are very close to having a population that outstrips its food supplies. And, with every loss of farmland to expansion of urban growth boundaries, it gets worse. Once farmland is converted to other purposes, it is almost impossible to return it to farming. Importing more and more of our food from other countries leaves us very weak and vulnerable.

I urge you to vote NO on this bill.