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futurewise.org

December 10, 2019

Mr. Martin Sheeran, Chairman  
Benton County Planning Commission  
Benton County Planning Department  
P.O. Box 910  
1002 Dudley Avenue  
Prosser, Washington 99320

Dear Chair Sheeran and Planning Commissioners:

**Subject:** Comments on the 2017 Comprehensive Plan amending Ordinance 600 to comply with Res. 2019-276 and satisfy the settlement with Futurewise, BCC Title 9 Subdivision Regulations (File No. OA 2019-002) amending Ordinance 612, Section 11 and BC 9.02.100 to comply with Res. 2019-276 & satisfy the settlement with Futurewise, and BCC Title 11-Zoning (File No. OA 2019-003) relating to building permits; amending Ordinance 611, Section 165 and BCC 11.42.040 to comply with Res. 2019-276 and satisfy the settlement with Futurewise.

Sent via email to: [planning.department@co.benton.wa.us](mailto:planning.department@co.benton.wa.us); [Donna.Hutchinson@co.benton.wa.us](mailto:Donna.Hutchinson@co.benton.wa.us)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the amendments to the comprehensive plan and development regulations. Futurewise works throughout the State to support land-use policies that encourage healthy, equitable, and opportunity-rich communities, and that protect our most valuable farmlands, forests, and water resources. Futurewise has members across Washington State including Benton County.

We agree that the proposed amendments are consistent with Sections 3 and 4 of our settlement agreement with Benton County. Section 3B of the settlement agreement provides that “Benton County will consider adopting the *Eastern Washington Storm Water Manual* by reference as a development regulation.” Adopting the *Eastern Washington Storm Water Manual* as a development regulation will protect water quality, reduce localized storm water flooding, and protect residents and property owners. We encourage Benton County to adopt the *Eastern Washington Storm Water Manual* by reference as a development regulation.

Additionally, we strongly support the County’s efforts to protect water quality by maintaining vegetative cover, limiting impervious surfaces, and encouraging Low Impact Development. Low Impact Development (LID) strategies mimic natural hydrologic conditions by emphasizing, conservation and use of on-site natural features to protect water quality.





We appreciate the work that County staff and officials have put into the settlement agreement and resulting policy improvements. These efforts will help protect rural residents, and our water resources from negative impacts. Our hope is that other jurisdictions in Eastern Washington facing limited water resources and rapid growth will look to Benton County's leadership on this issue.

Thank you for considering our comments. If you require additional information, please contact Alison Cable at telephone (206) 343 0681 Ext. 114 and email: [alison@futurewise.org](mailto:alison@futurewise.org) or Tim Trohimovich at telephone (206) 343-0681 Ext. 118 and email: [tim@futurewise.org](mailto:tim@futurewise.org).

Very Truly Yours,

Alison Cable

**Tri-Cities Program Manager**

Tim Trohimovich, AICP

**Director of Planning & Law**

Enclosures

