

Greater Maple Valley Area Council
P.O. Box 101
Maple Valley, WA 98038

March 5, 2004

Senator Cheryl Pflug; PO Box 40405, Olympia, WA 98504-0405
Representative Glenn Anderson; PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504-0600
Representative Jay Rodne; PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Senator Pflug, Representative Anderson, and Representative Rodne:

The Greater Maple Valley Area Council is concerned with bills **HB 2593 and SB 6303**, which were introduced to provide authorization for cities to annex areas within their urban growth boundary (UGB). We recognize neither of these bills are currently under consideration; however, we would like to make our position clear in the event that these bills, or other bills for the same purposes, are re-introduced later this session, or in subsequent sessions.

Our periodic constituent Advisory Ballot surveys find overwhelming sentiment not to be annexed nor be subject to retail sewer or water service. Unfortunately, these bills would facilitate annexations without a vote of the people. Although these bills appear to relate only to areas within the UGB, thus not directly affecting the citizens we represent, we are troubled they could set a dangerous precedent and could be the first steps towards liberalized annexation laws affecting any areas in the state.

In crafting new bills, or revising these bills, we urge you to eliminate any provisions that effectively gut the Growth Management Act. Should any of these bills go forward, we recommend that you also revise the rules for conduct of Boundary Review Boards to ensure that the intent of the Boundary Review is met. Specifically, we request that RCW 36.93 be revised to require that all discussions, votes, and decisions on annexations be made in open public meetings and that the Boundary Review Board not be permitted to exercise the exemptions provisions of RCW 42.30.110 (i). In addition we request that RCW 36.93 be revised to permit and require consideration testimony of elected officers and representatives of unincorporated citizen groups on issues affecting their community on issues which are brought before the Boundary Review Board. These changes are needed to protect unincorporated community interests from special interest groups.

Thank you for your time and due consideration of our request and of the citizens you and we represent.

Original signed by

Richard Bonewits
Chairman, Greater Maple Valley Area Council

cc: Bill Sponsors:

Representative Moeller; PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504-0600
Representative Clements; PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504-0600
Representative Wood; PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504-0600
Representative Wallace; PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504-0600
Representative Fromhold; PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504-0600
Representative Clibborn; PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504-0600
Senator Carlson, PO Box 40449; Olympia, WA 98504-0449
Attorney General Gregoire, PO Box 40100; Olympia, WA 98504-0100

King County:

Executive Sims; King County Courthouse, 516 Third Ave., Room 400, Seattle, WA 98104-3272
Councilman Phillips, KC Council Chair; 516 Third Ave., Room 1200, Seattle, WA 98104-3272
Councilman Irons, KC Council; 516 Third Ave., Room 1200, Seattle, WA 98104-3272