



Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council
P.O. Box 111
Maple Valley, WA 98038

December 21, 2020

State Representative Bill Ramos (bill.Ramos@leg.wa.gov),

In response to your request the Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council (GMVUAC) is providing you a list of some key concerns which only can be addressed at the State level. These are not new concerns, but long-standing issues that have greatly diminished rural quality of life.

1. City-to-city urban commuters routinely use King County rural roads (e.g., Issaquah-to-Black Diamond corridor), due to lack of concurrent improvements to state highways and other main routes connecting cities and those same cities accepting growth beyond which the regional transportation infrastructure can sustain. This degrades quality of life in rural areas which the GMA is supposed to protect.
2. Taxes paid by rural residents provide too few services, especially when it comes to gas tax allocation. How can tax laws be revised to be more equitable between the urban and rural areas?
3. There continues a trend of rapid growth within cities in southeast King County, but it is not accompanied by adequate funding and/or political support for transportation system improvements in all jurisdictions. How can transportation funding be better coordinated regionally across jurisdictions?
4. Transportation plans are inadequate for arterial improvements to serve traffic growth in rural areas to accommodate the rapid growth in outlying cities. We ask the State to help in a cohesive effort to ensure growth is not only acknowledged by each county and city up to the borders of each, but is jointly accommodated across and between borders. Clearly, we need a cohesive, regional approach.
5. The Growth Management Act (GMA) lacks proper implementation and enforcement mechanisms—this is where the most emphasis is required by the State. Currently, the GMA has served more to damage rural areas than to help. Key fixtures of the law have been undermined by development and lack of funding to do anything about it! We would like to work with you to understand these flaws (e.g., Transportation Concurrency, originally a great concept, was so watered down in the actual GMA language to render it nigh impotent).

Thank you.

Steve Hiester, Chair, GMVUAC (steve.Hiester@oldcastle.com)

cc: State Senator Mark Mullet (mark.mullet@leg.wa.gov)
State Representative Lisa Callan (lisa.callan@leg.wa.gov)
King County Dept. of Local Services (DLS) Director, John Taylor (John-Dir.Taylor@kingcounty.gov)
King County DLS Roads Division Director, Tricia Davis (tricia.Davis@kingcounty.gov)