



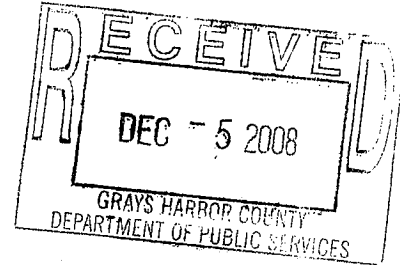
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Bob Brink, Yacolt, President
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Rick Dunning, Battle Ground, Exec. Director
Erica Norquist, Information/Organization Officer

November 6, 2008

Brian Shea
Planning and Building Division
Public Services Department
Grays Harbor County
100 West Broadway, Suite 31
Montesano, WA 98563



Re: Grays Harbor County Planning Commission Hearing regarding Code 18.02 Critical Area
Protection Ordinance

Dear Mr. Shea:

I am writing at the request of the Grays Harbor Chapter of the Washington Farm Forestry Association. Our members, as you know have planted, managed, and harvested timber in Grays Harbor for over 50 years, providing economic and environmental benefits to your area.

Since the inception of the Washington State Forest and Fish Rules back in 1999, we have been asking state and local jurisdictions to consider the unintended consequences of their regulations and that of local ordinances on these small businesses.

Recent findings by Cascade Land Conservancy, the Northwest Environmental Forum, the Department of Natural Resources Forest Practices Board, and local legislators all reflect the statewide impact and concern of the continuing conversion of family forest lands.

In light of these concerns, the Washington Farm Forestry Association, including the members of the Grays Harbor Chapter ask you to consider exempting forestry activities from the Grays Harbor County CAO since they are already governed under the Washington State Forest Practice Regulations.

Growing, maintaining and harvesting timber and forest products should be exempted in a manner similar to agricultural. Let's encourage tree farmers to grow trees and not over burden them with additional regulations.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Rick Dunning".

Rick Dunning, Executive Director
Washington Farm Forestry Association