

**Schroader, Kathy**

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**From:** Cnty Board of County Councilors General Delivery  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 05, 2016 7:35 AM  
**To:** Mielke, Tom; Madore, David, Stewart, Jeanne, Olson, Julie (Councilor), Boldt, Marc  
**Cc:** McCauley, Mark, Tilton, Rebecca, Schroader, Kathy  
**Subject:** FW Public Hearing April 5th, Rural Industrial Land Bank  
**Attachments:** American Farmland Trust Letter to Clark County BOCC 04 04 16 pdf

for the record

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**From:** Kate Delavan [mailto:kdelavan@farmland.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 04, 2016 4:29 PM  
**To:** Cnty Board of County Councilors General Delivery; Cnty 2016 Comp Plan  
**Subject:** Public Hearing April 5th, Rural Industrial Land Bank

Dear Clark County Board of County Councilors,

Please see the comments from American Farmland Trust regarding the proposed Rural Industrial Land Bank. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Kate Delavan

Kate Delavan  
**American Farmland Trust**  
*Saving the Land that Sustains Us*  
1402 3rd Avenue #1325, Seattle, WA 98101  
Office: 206-860-4222 | Mobile: 208-659-7004



[www.farmland.org](http://www.farmland.org)





April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016

The Honorable Marc Boldt, Council Chair  
Clark County Board of County Councilors  
PO Box 5000  
Vancouver, Washington 98666-5000

Dear Council Chair Boldt and Councilors Madore, Mielke, Olson, and Stewart,

Subject: Comments on the proposed Rural Industrial Land Bank for the County Councilors April 5, 2016 Public Hearing

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Rural Industrial Land Bank. **We respectfully urge you to deny the Rural Industrial Land Bank.**

We lose almost an acre of farmland every minute in the United States. American Farmland Trust works to prevent conversion of this precious resource by supporting policies to protect farmland from development. Maintaining our agricultural land base is critical to feeding our growing population and to providing the ecosystem services required for a healthy environment. American Farmland Trust is a membership based organization with members hailing from across Washington, including Clark County.

The agricultural economy is significant in Clark County. In 2012, the market value exceeded \$50 million. However between 2007 and 2012, Clark County lost both farms and farmland (decrease of 8% and 5% respectively from 2007 to 2012).<sup>1</sup> **The proposed Rural Industrial Land Bank is a step in the wrong direction. It would result in the loss of even more farmland.** Once farmland is paved over for development, we can never get it back.

According to the County's agricultural lands analysis, 99% of the proposed site contains prime soils.<sup>2</sup> Prime farmland soils have the best physical and chemical properties for most kinds of agriculture, requiring less water, fertilizers, and pesticides. They are the easiest soils to keep healthy, farm profitably, and grow the widest variety of crops with the least environmental impact. These soils are a limited natural resource; they cannot be replaced. Furthermore, The *Clark County Buildable Lands Report* found that the County's urban growth areas have sufficient land to accommodate the County's planned employment growth. It does not make sense, nor does it follow the intent of the Growth Management Act, to convert land that is actively being farmed to industrial use. **We urge the Board of County Councilors to recognize that this land has properties that make it particularly well suited for agricultural use and that it deserves to maintain its current designation. Please deny the proposed Rural Industrial Land Bank.**

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact us via telephone 206-860-4222 or e-mail [kdelavan@farmland.org](mailto:kdelavan@farmland.org) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kate Delavan  
Interim Regional Director

<sup>1</sup> USDA (2012). *2012 Census of Agriculture County Profile, Clark County, Washington*

<sup>2</sup> (2016) *Appendix B, Agricultural Lands Analysis*, (<https://www.clark.wa.gov/community-planning/rural-industrial-land-bank>)