

**Spencer, Martha**

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**From:** Spencer, Martha  
**Sent:** Monday, April 26, 2010 10:53 AM  
**To:** Lorenzo, Norma; Watts, Siana  
**Subject:** FW: For Planning Commission (Revised)

Members of the Planning Commission:

April 26, 2010

I submitted this letter to the McKinleyville Press and want to share it with you.

Respectfully, Chuck Harvey [hollyberryboers@suddenlink.net](mailto:hollyberryboers@suddenlink.net)

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**PLANNING COMMISSION INSANITY: "OR"?**

I attended the Planning Commission meeting on April 15 and heard Bill Barnum demand that timber land be open to development. But I didn't catch his effort to twist the word "or" for his purpose, as Daniel Mintz explained in last week's Press.

Barnum claimed that where state law says "a residence OR other structure" must be necessary for the management of land zoned for timber production (TPZ), it means one or the other, not both. That's like saying a sign that reads "No Trespassing or Hunting" means if you don't hunt, you can go ahead and trespass!

That's just nuts. Yet the Planning Commission voted four to one in agreement, making vast timber production acreages wide open to residential development.

Sheesh! After a decade of Planning Commission hearings on the County's General Plan Update, the whole big idea of stopping urban sprawl on prime resource land--and infilling urban areas for more walking and less driving--seems to be going down the tubes. Global warming and worldwide ecological crisis be damned, along with costs to the public for infrastructure and services in outlying areas!

Of course forest land has a higher value as residential real estate than it does as timber production land, but that's what planning and zoning are all about—protecting the wider public interest from a single-minded pursuit of profit by special interests, regardless of the long-term impact on everyone else. In fact, the use of all private property is subject to law, like exposing one's "privates" in public.

Barnum's absurd notion of "or" is just a gimmick to escape that reality. But all involved—timber companies, smaller owners, developers and realtors—want profit to rule over all other considerations. I hope the Planning Commission will reconsider this vote against good planning and that future-oriented citizens who want responsible public policies will speak up.

Chuck Harvey