

Janet Beck <dammitjanet3@gmail.com>

Mon 2/21/2022 5:14 PM

To: Olivia Story <olivia.story@co.yakima.wa.us>

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Dear Olivia,

I am writing to you in regard to the current Planning Commission consideration of potential rules changes for agritourism. If you are not the person who is fielding comments for the Commission, please forward this e-mail to the correct designee.

I am a local Yakima resident--a PROUD citizen of Yakima County. I have visited many of the local agritourism venues with family and friends over the past few years. It is wonderful to see the changes to our valley, with many options to enjoy the beautiful views, lovely weather and great offerings of beverages and food at our local wineries and breweries. Much of the charm of our Yakima businesses is that they are nestled within our community--I don't have to drive far to access them when I am looking for a relaxing day of fun and conversation. Many of our businesses also offer events with music and other entertainment such as paint parties, yoga and exercise opportunities--and a good healthy hike to at least one of my favorite places.

I understand the Planning Commission is looking to potentially change its rules for agritourism businesses. I am strongly encouraging you to keep the current access and amenities available to our community and our visitors.

Please maintain the current rule that "events" are defined as 200 + attendees. I know from my own visits that, especially as the weather warms, some of my favorite businesses may have 100+ visitors on a given day--and they offer plenty of space inside and outside to accommodate us. Some businesses are located near bike and hiking trails that allow us to access them without a vehicle, which cuts down on traffic and noise for nearby residents.

I consider these businesses as options for dining as well. The availability of food--not packaged snacks, but REAL, prepared food is an attraction for visitors. Many offer food truck provisions, which is an important support to these local workers as well. I also enjoy the food offerings for a great lunch or dinner to pair with wine or brews --it enhances the experience, as well as provides a safer visit --we are able to have a meal with our beverages. It is my understanding that the Yakima Health Dept currently regulates the food service provided at agritourism businesses--and it should continue to do so.

Another consideration for your commission is a potential of reducing RV/Camping spaces, which is currently limited to 12 spaces. I believe it is important for our community to offer plenty of opportunities for out-of-town guests to stay at our venues to promote our local

economic growth and provide accessibility to visit our local businesses. The current limit of 12 spaces allows that accessibility without negatively impacting the surrounding areas.

As I stated at the beginning of my comment, I am so proud to live in this community with the wonderful wineries and breweries that have grown up here. We need to do all we can to support our local businesses and promote our lovely Yakima Valley. The current protections in place for surrounding residents are working well and should be maintained.

Please contact me directly if you would like to have a conversation.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Janet Beck
1607 South 70th Avenue
Yakima, WA 98908
509-945-0415