

# Received

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To Whom It May Concern (regarding the impending invasion of Wal-Mart on our small town):

By choice I live on acreage in the country. By choice I live just outside a small town (Yelm). I chose to live in the country, near a small town because of the quality of life. I do not want to live in a city, or the suburbs. I want small town, friendly people, polite drivers, locally owned businesses, rural ambiance. Yes, Yelm is growing, but we still have the option to keep the small town feel and I am for that 110%.

To bring in a Super Wal-Mart would destroy that small town ambiance. It would cause many of our businesses to close, businesses owned and operated by local citizens. There is already a Wal-Mart 30 minutes away in one direction (Spanaway) and 20-25 minutes away in the other direction (Hawks Prairie). I don't want to see Yelm turn into a Spanaway OR a Hawks Prairie (nothing against those towns, I just don't want to see Yelm lose the "small rural town" charm).

Already our traffic is more than our roads can handle, and it will be several years before we get the much needed Yelm By-Pass. There are hundreds of new homes in at least 2 large developments going in, further burdening our road systems. We do not need to draw thousands of people from other areas into the already congested traffic problem. It is obvious that those wanting to put a Wal-Mart here have not had the dubious pleasure of driving thru Yelm during morning or evening 'rush-hour' or during the time when the schools let out. It takes half an hour or longer to go the short distance from one end of town to the other. Add to that the traffic caused by a Wal-Mart and it would only exacerbate the problem.

I say NO to having a Wal-Mart, and stand with those battling to save our town from the behemoth that gobbles small towns up like so many M&Ms.

Respectfully,

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