

Received

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Brian V. and Carol Cavanaugh

18518 Bald Hill Road SE
Yelm, Washington 98597
360-894-8501

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Hearings Examiner:

There are many negative impacts the proposed Wal-Mart superstore will have on Yelm, and we ask that you oppose its construction. Our request is based on Wal-Mart's business philosophy of coming into a small town, underselling and closing the existing retail businesses, and becoming the only store in town. I understand that Wal-Mart is even going so far as to include multiplex movie theaters in their new stores to shut down the local cinema, not to mention laundries and dry cleaners, restaurants, banks, etc. We have also heard that if city officials do not comply with Wal-Mart's demands the city will be faced with a lawsuit by Wal-Mart.

We love living near Yelm with its small-town atmosphere, and we do not want to see the downtown become a ghost town. We enjoy the one-on-one relationship with our local vendors, and we take pleasure in voting for our favorites for the "Best of" honors each year. If Wal-Mart comes to town, this will all be gone.

We all know that our street through town is clogged with traffic much of the day and that the addition of "big-box" stores will only make it worse. Wal-Mart trucks come to town and unload during the night, and the loud noise would be disruptive to people living near the truck route and near the store. Also Wal-Mart encourages people to park in their parking lots and spend the night, which would make the area a sometime party central and a new problem for the police department.

I can't imagine that any economic advantage that Wal-Mart has used to sell their new store could outweigh the damage to the city and the surrounding areas. We can shop at Wal-Mart on Mountain Highway, in Lacey, or in Puyallup, to name a few. We don't need a Wal-Mart store here when there are several just a short drive away. Please don't let Wal-Mart come to Yelm.

Sincerely,
Mr. and Mrs. Brian V. Cavanaugh