

Received

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Dear Hearing Examiner,

I have lived in Yelm for 16 years. I moved here with my son when he was 13 years old because Yelm was a pristine, semi-rural town; a bedroom community of Olympia. The streets weren't crowded with traffic. My son and other children could ride their bikes and horses safely down the main road in Yelm. The school buses drove their morning and evening routes with ease.

Over the years traffic gradually increased which is to be expected but it has gotten out of control because of secretive, improper management. **The city managers** have made a horrible mistake in their decision-making and because they did, we the citizens of Yelm must now vehemently speak out against their lack of knowledge and greed in handling this Wal-Mart matter. They made an erroneous decision. They were to represent the people's will and they didn't. When something is wrong, it's wrong. How can you allow Wal-Mart to move into Yelm just because of a decision, made by a few which certainly does not represent the majority in the town and the thousands who live outside the town but spend money in town. There are some local business owners who do not want Wal-Mart but are afraid to speak up. They are afraid of ostracism from-----who knows---- but I can guess. This is too bad. Maybe this experience might help them develop courage and stand up for what they really think.

The numerous and enormous housing developments built right in town and in the outlying areas have changed my 7 minute ride to work at Yelm High School to a 25 minute stop and go fiasco. Within the past 3 years during first period at the high school, buses are frequently calling in say they will be late and don't mark the kids tardy. This was before construction began at the high school. I have taught at this school since 1992 but as I said before, I have lived in Yelm for 16 years.

Yelm High School dismisses students at 2:25 now changed to 2:22. When the buses try to leave the school parking lot to turn onto the highway ----- it is a very long process. Although some people extend the courteous of every now and then stopping to let a bus or two slip into the highway traffic it is still a very slow process. In addition to the buses, student drivers are stacked up behind them waiting their turn to enter the highway. The flow of traffic coming back into Yelm at this time of day has gotten heavier even at this early time of the day. The town's roads and the plans cannot accommodate more delivery trucks and customers driving thru Yelm to get to a Wal-Mart Store. And even if the roads were sufficient, Wal-Mart is still not wanted here.

This town was misrepresented. Wal-Mart's application should not have even been considered. And the land it is proposed to be built on is next to one of the cleanest rivers left; the Nisqually River. Parking lot; cars; oil leakage from cars and trucks; fumes mixing with wildlife because the trees have been cut down and acres and acres of grass removed to make way for cement, asphalt, concrete which absorb heat, the temperature of the water goes up forcing the fish to find cooler waters they can survive in, on and on and on—hmmm. Wal-Mart lets RVs park over night in their parking lots. Who will monitor

what might be thrown in the waters for those passing through who may not have the same respect for our lands?

Are you listening!!!!??? This hearing would not be happening if so many people did not want Wal-Mart in this town---the majority!!! You know Wal-Mart's track record of destroying small towns and small businesses. There is out of control greed within many big box store corporations. They say they are here to provide jobs and sell items cheaply. YEA-- Right- as the kids would sarcastically reply to an untruth or when they smell an ulterior motive lurking. In the meantime, Wal-Mart milks the town dry and once that is done then they leave and off they go somewhere else to destroy another small town. Most of the small business will have long since shut down because they could not compete with Wal-Mart's "**cheap prices**". This is a SMOKE SCREEN!!! Milk the United States dry by importing Chinese products and not using USA products-taking jobs away from US citizens. You can be unemotional in your decision but your decision has to be based on facts. These are facts, not emotion. Don't you love your country? Don't you want to see its citizens employed too? Do you have such a filter on your thinking that you don't know this? Why do many Americans need cheap prices? Because they don't have jobs. And why aren't jobs in abundance? Because the big business are moving manufacturing over seas where labor is cheap. Greed, Greed. Wal-Mart is capitalizing on the unemployed condition.

I choose not to have Wal-Mart as my neighbor!!!! Their application cannot be accepted by Yelm. Yelm cannot be bound to a Wal-Mart application. No ones' hands are ever tied. There is always something that can be done---Always! We may have to think deeper than usual and use ideas that are not in our common repertoire of action. We may have to look at a law that has been overlooked for so long, but there is always another way!!! Maybe we have to research or ask to convene with those who are more knowledgeable than us. We all must admit that we don't know everything but in school we teach students how to go and gather information to be more informed to make better decisions.

"Sometimes a little chaos and adversity challenges stagnation of the mind to be inventive"

Our voice must be heard!!! You must see this, don't you?

Our forefathers established three magnificent documents (The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and The Bill of Rights) that some government officials (federal, state, county, city, town) seem to ignore let alone know what is in it. I am certain that some of the brilliant people who are giving testimony are quoting from these magnificent documents.

" **WE the people** of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, *insure domestic Tranquility*, provide for the *common* defense, promote the

general Welfare, and secure the **Blessing of Liberty** to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

You should agree that just the Preamble alone is absolute genius. I memorized this in the 5th grade when we studied these great documents, and I understand it very well!

Our forefathers knew how quickly liberties could be taken away from the common people by power and greed as demonstrated by Great Britain (a huge tyrannical machine). Our forefathers had first hand experience.

Wal-Mart and *its connections* are endangering my right to live in a town that grows and evolves at a reasonable, well, thought through rate. A growing community is not just about a great deal of money coming into this town very quickly as the mayor, city council members and other silent or non-silent behind the scenes individuals might think. This may be their idea of growing. It is not about throwing your doors open to anyone and all businesses and saying “Use me as you will”.

I have a say about my future and I hold on to this God given right, dearly. I do not relinquish it now or ever.

With the passion of freedom,

Connie Anderson
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