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Wal-Mart Public Hearing
Yelm, WA 98597

To Whom It May Concern:

I have several concerns about the recent approval of the Wal-Mart application to build a superstore in Yelm. They are the increase in traffic congestion, the displacement of jobs and the loss of our rural atmosphere.

Traffic problems have increased dramatically in the past five years. It is a regular occurrence to experience heavy congestion on Yelm Avenue on a daily basis - both in the early mornings and a large part of the afternoon. On July 5th at 6:30 pm, I experienced a traffic slowdown starting at Nisqually Red Wind Casino. It took 30 minutes to arrive at my home on McKenzie Avenue. On July 28th at 6 pm, I experienced stop and go traffic on Yelm Avenue from Yelm High School to the intersection at 1st Street, with the average speed being five miles an hour. On August 25th at 5 pm, I experienced stop and go traffic which started at the curve on Yelm Avenue prior to 93rd Avenue. These are not isolated incidents, but rather daily occurrences. Additional traffic entering and leaving Yelm will only make local travel more difficult, reducing the likelihood of people shopping throughout Yelm.

Yelm currently has a wide variety of small businesses supported by our community. The addition of a superstore in Yelm will most likely cause some closures of our local businesses. While Wal-Mart will employ a good number of people, their employment practices, in both worker wages and benefits, will be lower than comparable businesses in our area. The displacement of jobs by Wal-Mart will create further poverty in our area by replacing lost jobs with lower paying positions that have fewer benefits. The net result is a decrease in peoples' wages which will place further strains on our community. This will also increase the need for aid from local tax payers and state government.

I moved to Yelm to live in a rural, small town atmosphere. I am not against growth, but healthy growth must be managed in a way that is sustainable to the community. A superstore in our small town does not fit the size and nature of our community and will cause other businesses to close. This is not sustainable growth.

In closing, any increase in traffic in Yelm is significant. Economic growth should be applicable to the size and character of the community and should be sustainable. I enjoy small town living and prefer to drive to large shopping areas when I need to shop. I do not want any superstore in Yelm or nearby and I will not shop there.

Sincerely,



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