



February 3, 2022

RE: Naches Urban Growth Area Proposal

To Whom it may concern,

Naches Valley School District has been in enrollment decline for the past ten years, from roughly 1390 students to approximately 1,230 this year. Over that time period, the district has completed questionnaires with the community to determine the reason(s) why. And each time it comes down to housing, and the availability for affordable housing.

There's a large interest from the outside community to live within the Naches School District boundary. This is evidenced by the number of students who choose into the district (students who live outside the district boundary but elect to come to Naches Valley).

Thus, we find the opportunity to expand the urban growth area as just that...an opportunity for more families to move in. More students equates to more revenue for the district, which provides more choices for students. For example, increased revenue would provide more elective classes at the high school.

Moreover, more housing provides for a larger tax base and spreads taxes across more homeowners, potentially reducing the tax rate for each homeowner.

Respectfully,

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Robert Bowman
Naches Valley Superintendent