

From: [Cigdem Capan](#)
To: [Nicole Stickney](#)
Subject: Take action to protect farmland in Franklin County!
Date: Thursday, March 25, 2021 9:45:05 PM

Dear Nicole Stickney,

Dear Franklin County Planning Commission:

I am writing to ask you to protect agricultural lands—do not expand Pasco’s UGA into farmlands. The proposed comprehensive plan changes will result in a significant loss of farmland that is critical to our quality of life and the Tri-Cities economy.

According to the American Farmland Trust, “Farms Under Threat: State of the States Report” across the U.S. thousands of acres of agricultural land per day are lost due to land conversion. However, Washington ranks second only to Oregon when it comes to land use planning that protects farms, thanks in large part to the Growth Management Act. Compact urban growth areas protect rural character and natural resources and help ensure we have well-designed communities furnished with amenities encompassed by natural resource lands and a rural landscape.

The proposed criteria for designating Agricultural Resource Lands provides that if the land is added to the urban growth area, it is no longer Agricultural Resource Lands. The better approach is to first determine if the land still qualifies as Agricultural Resource Lands by looking at whether the land is not already characterized by urban growth; is used or capable of being used for agricultural production; and has long-term commercial significance for agriculture. If it meets these conditions, it should not be included in the Urban Growth Area.

Please take the following actions to protect farmland:

- Do not approve Pasco’s planned UGA expansion that will result in increased residential development that land locks the Tri-Cities Airport.
- Do not change the criteria so adding land to the urban growth area automatically disqualifies it as Agricultural Resource Lands.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,
Cigdem Capan
1701 Gray St
Richland, WA 99352