

1000 Friends of Chuckanut Ridge & RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT

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Dear Friends of Chuckanut Ridge,

NOW IS A CRITICAL TIME in our mission to save the magnificent Chuckanut Ridge urban forest and wetland habitat. Horizon Bank and David Edelstein are moving full speed ahead with their massive 739-unit *Fairhaven Highlands* development that will destroy the *100 Acre Wood* and:

- Create severe traffic congestion;
- Threaten the safety of students, pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists;
- Decimate an extensive network of irreplaceable Category 1 mature forested wetlands;
- Overburden the Fairhaven / 12th Street Bridge;
- Increase the likelihood of flooding and landslides in our neighborhoods;
- Pollute precious salmon bearing streams;
- Devastate a keystone wildlife habitat, specifically earmarked by the city for conservation;
- Overcrowd our parks, trails, ball fields, and recreational facilities; and
- Irrevocably harm the very character of our neighborhoods.

1000 Friends of Chuckanut Ridge, a volunteer organization formed to ensure that this property is preserved once and for all, and **RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT**, an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, have joined forces to provide a unique opportunity to protect this ecologically sensitive forest, if we act without delay. We are writing to invite you to join your neighbors and friends to permanently conserve this land for future generations.

The city has determined that **THIS DEVELOPMENT WOULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT** and has required an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). According to our experts, the technical studies and reports prepared by the developer's consultants that will form the basis for the EIS are severely flawed. To protect our quality of life, we must hire our experts to review and document these errors, a painstaking but necessary process. These **PEER REVIEWS** will become a cornerstone of our efforts to protect this land and the character of our neighborhoods.

THE ADVERSE IMPACTS of this development will be widespread. Residents from all five southside neighborhoods, including South, Happy Valley, Edgemoor, Fairhaven and South Hill, will be **directly** affected. Additionally, residents throughout Whatcom County will deeply regret the loss of this highly valued forest and keystone wildlife habitat. Even a reduced version of the proposed development will tragically disfigure the forest area and adversely impact our community.

A REQUEST TO HELP RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT PROTECT CHUCKANUT RIDGE

IF WE SHARE in the cost of retaining these environmental experts and continuing our solid relationship with well known land use attorney, David Bricklin, the burden on each will be modest. For example, if 500 of us make a \$200 **tax-deductible** "investment" toward protecting Chuckanut Ridge, the \$100,000 raised will fund the anticipated legal and consulting costs. Unfortunately, as we have all learned, we cannot expect regulators and elected officials to uphold these laws and guard our interests. It is our right, and our responsibility, to protect our environment and quality of life.

FORTUNATELY, AN OPPORTUNITY MAY EXIST to acquire the **entire** property and place this land into permanent conservancy. Several months ago, Horizon Bank expressed a willingness to sell

Chuckanut Ridge to the city, and we are hopeful that Mayor Pike will pursue this opportunity. Over the next 15 years, the city expects to generate millions of dollars in revenues to acquire parkland and open space. If the political will is there, a portion of these funds can be made available to acquire Chuckanut Ridge. In addition to these funds, *1000 Friends of Chuckanut Ridge* has set a goal of raising \$2 million in private donations. We also plan to seek sizeable grants. We believe that it will ultimately be more costly to Bellingham's citizens to allow development on Chuckanut Ridge than it will be to purchase it for conservation.

A request to help 1000 Friends of Chuckanut Ridge raise \$2 Million

TO ACHIEVE OUR GOAL, *1000 Friends* cordially invites you to join your neighbors by pledging your financial support. Our goal is for 1,000 "friends" to pledge an average of \$200 per year (less than \$17 per month) for 10 years, generating \$2 million over this time period. We believe these pledges will clearly demonstrate our commitment to invest in and preserve this cherished, ecologically-sensitive land. These pledges will be for future **tax-deductible** contributions for the express purpose of acquiring the **entire** Chuckanut Ridge parcel once an agreement to purchase this land at a fair price has been reached. Pledges will apply only if we can acquire the entire parcel.

EVERY PERSON AND EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS. We fully understand and appreciate that many "friends" will pledge more than \$200 per year, while others will pledge less. Please be assured that any investment you are able to make toward preserving Chuckanut Ridge is greatly appreciated.

PLEASE THINK ABOUT IT. Chuckanut Ridge is one of Bellingham's last remaining urban forests, providing a rare and precious habitat for fish and wildlife while continually removing harmful pollution from our air and water, producing vital oxygen, and preventing damaging floods and landslides. How much is it worth to you to preserve the *100 Acre Wood* in its natural state for your children and grandchildren to enjoy – hiking, biking, and appreciating a pristine natural environment? How much will its destruction impair your own property values and quality of life?

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US in this crucial effort with your:

- ✓ Tax-deductible **contribution now** to protect Chuckanut Ridge from irresponsible development.
- ✓ **Pledge** for future tax-deductible contributions to acquire this property.

Two forms are attached to the letter (along with a copy for your records and a reply envelope):

- **RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION FORM**
- **1000 Friends of Chuckanut Ridge Pledge Form**

By working together, we can preserve Chuckanut Ridge and honor the environmental legacy of those who came before us. As we have come to learn, "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children." **LET'S MAKE OUR CHILDREN PROUD!**

Thanks in advance for your generous support to preserve the *Chuckanut Ridge 100 Acre Wood* and the beauty of Bellingham's neighborhoods.

Sincerely yours,

**1000 Friends of Chuckanut Ridge &
RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT**, a §501(c)(3) non-profit organization

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