



CITY OF EDMONDS

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CITY COUNCIL

February 13, 2023

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

RE: Our Environment and HB 1110 and SB 5190

Dear Governor Inslee,

There continues to be a huge flaw in all discussions regarding the Growth Management Act (GMA) and planning: the unintended consequences to the environment. Your Presidential bid had one major platform of the impacts of Climate Change and yet, your discussions regarding housing do not address geomorphic events as they continue to be explosive and more frequent. So, I am asking you to be conscientious of the knowledge local lawmakers possess when it comes to zoning decisions and veto any bills regarding removing local control.

My common-sense solutions for both of these Bills can be a two-pronged approach to ensure appropriate exemptions: 1) Cities on a coastline or with major watershed(s) and the surrounding jurisdictions within a 15-mile radius would be exempt from any State mandate relating to zoning jurisdiction or 2) Cities that meet their GMA goals should be exempt as these local lawmakers have already been proactive in their local zoning to accommodate the stated growth targets.

Proposed HB 1110 and SB 5190 would preempt the ability of local municipalities to determine these VERY important laws, depriving local community members and elected leaders who have firsthand knowledge of their City's topography, tree canopy, buildable land, demographics, socio-economic data, and residential characteristics. Edmonds has always met our GMA targets; the passage of these bills would have significant impact on our coastal communities that have sensitive watersheds requiring significant restoration and culvert replacement projects.

In Edmonds, the Puget Sound shoreline provides us with the privilege of fantastic views, coastal recreation and habitat viewing; but it also comes with the responsibility of restoring and protecting our watersheds with updating culverts, protecting tree canopy, restoration of our Marsh near-shore estuary and being conscientious of the impacts of the chemicals we don't see created from density. All of our watersheds are in distress, dramatically impacted by an increase of forceful weather events. In the case of Perrinville Watershed, our neighboring

municipality (Lynnwood) has added significant density on our border. The ecological impact has prioritized this watershed and we have had to initiate a stormwater action plan.

In December 2022, the Edmonds City Council adopted Resolution 1510 (see attached) which I crafted with the assistance of a citizen from our Housing Commission. The resolution strongly supports retaining local legislative control over ANY zoning decisions. In that resolution, it shows that Edmonds lawmakers have taken GMA targets and affordable housing issues seriously by our past zoning decisions made with our citizens' valuable input.

Both Bills reflect the lack of understand regarding the need for environmental restoration to achieve a **net ecological gain** as a measure to make up for the "sins of the past in local zoning decisions"? Residential units allowed in floodplains have proven to be costly and time consuming. As example, the Riverbend Mobile Home Park on the Cedar River took over 10 years to purchase, relocate the mobile park, and then demolish existing structures. This is an excellent example of watershed restoration creating a net ecological gain.

While both State and Federal Lawmakers budgeted millions of dollars for cleaning up the Sound, assisting in near-shore estuary restoration, working on watershed improvement with updated culverts, etc., these areas do not productively intersect with the topics of transportation, commerce, zoning and density. The Growth Management Act, as well as Cities' Comprehensive Plans, have environmental and Climate Change sections but lack the critical time urgency of the impacts of Climate Change and, most importantly, mitigation goals are not specified or cross referenced in the housing and transportation sections.

As a veteran member of both Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) Salmon Recovery Council and Watershed Resource Inventory Area 8 (WRIA 8), I can assure you our scientists, environmentalists and Tribes are concerned about the continued disregard of our environment as we continue to deal with the issues of affordable housing. So, please loop in those groups and hear their voices - many watersheds and our Puget Sound are in need of help NOW.

Please, think of future generations by balancing the environmental aspect and allow local lawmakers to control zoning and implement changes, as we know our City's needs best

Respectfully,



Diane Buckshnis
Edmonds City Council #4
WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council
WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Sub-Committee
WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Legislative and DEI Sub-Committees
PSP Salmon Recovery Council
Edmonds Youth Commission

Attachments:
Resolution No. 1510

CC

Senator Marko Lias, Transportation Chair

Senator Jesse Salomon, 32nd District

Senator Joe Nguyen Environment, Energy and Technology Chair

Senator Liz Lovelett, Government, Land Use, Tribal Affairs Chair

Senator Mark Mullet, Ways & Means Vice Chair

Rep Beth Doglio, House Environment and Energy Chair

Rep Davina Duerr, Local Government Chair

Rep Strom Peterson, 21st District

Rep Lillian Ortiz-Self, 32nd District

Rep Lauren Davis, 32nd District

Rep Cindy Ryu, 32nd District

Jason-Mulvhill Kuntz, WRIA – 8 Salmon Recovery Manager

Laura Blackmore, PSP Salmon Recovery Executive Director

David Troutt, PSP Chair, Nisqually Tribe

Debora Munguia, State Legislative Aid

Todd Tatum, City of Edmonds Economic Director and Legislative Liaison

Deanna Dawson, CEO AWC

Cynthia Stewart, LWVWA State Issue Chair

James Ogonowski, Edmonds Housing Commissioner, co-author Resolution 1510

City Council, Edmonds

RESOLUTION NO. 1510

A RESOLUTION OF THE EDMONDS CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF RETAINING RIGHTS TO SELF-DETERMINATION AS IT PERTAINS TO LAND USE, ZONING, BUILDING CODES AND ORDINANCES AND TO URGE COUNTY AND STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS TO NOT TAKE THESE RIGHTS AWAY THROUGH LEGISLATIVE ACTION.

WHEREAS, Edmonds is a code city within the State of Washington as encoded by Title 35A RCW; and

WHEREAS, code cities were created by the State Legislature in order to grant the greatest degree of local control to municipalities possible under the state constitution and general law; and

WHEREAS, code cities are authorized to perform any function not specifically denied them in the State Constitution or by state law and may perform any function granted to any other city classification under Title 35 RCW; and

WHEREAS, Edmonds' Comprehensive Plan recognizes and adheres to Growth Management Act (GMA) requirements and contains a wide variety of housing options in addition to specific sub-area plans and Edmonds is comfortably exceeding current and projected GMA targets for housing capacity; and

WHEREAS, Edmonds has an engaged volunteer Planning Board of citizens to guide growth; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, a 23-volunteer Citizens' Housing Commission met for 18 months and provided 15 recommendations to the City Council that included robust and flexible zoning and building codes to meet a changing environment; and

WHEREAS, Edmonds has a land area of 8.9 square miles and has consistently met GMA growth targets with 2035 population projected to be 45,550; and

WHEREAS, Edmonds is a waterfront community with a built-out city that has a unique topography with large watersheds and public spaces which limits our land capacity for new structures; and

WHEREAS, our buildable lands report reflected 23 years of constant growth and current permitting projections are exceeding all prior forecasts; and

WHEREAS, residents have clearly spoken that we value neighborhood character and are increasingly protective of watersheds, critical areas and our environment and;

WHEREAS, a survey conducted by our Citizens' Housing Commission, showed 78% of respondents strongly desire to retain single family zoning as currently codified; now therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EDMONDS, WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Edmonds City Council adopts this resolution to express its official position in support of retaining local control of our zoning and building codes without modification by County or State legislation.

Section 2. The Edmonds City Council opposes legislation, or other outside mandates, which changes or attempts to influence local zoning or building codes or any definitions associated with them.

Section 3. The Edmonds City Council further resolves that, by its legislative policy, single family zoning will continue to be a component of our zoning codes.

Section 4. The City of Edmonds accepts responsibility for our land use and zoning codes to be in compliance with all current federal, state and county laws.

Section 5. The Edmonds City Council directs that copies of this Resolution shall be sent to our Snohomish County representatives, Governor Inslee, and our State representatives as a means of affirming our City’s support of our right to self-determination of our land use, zoning and building codes and ordinances.

Section 6. The Edmonds City Council reaffirms our commitment to our citizens to reject any intervention by County and State Legislators to dilute any of City Council’s authority in all land use matters.

RESOLVED this 6th day of December 2022.

CITY OF EDMONDS


MAYOR, MIKE NELSON

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK, SCOTT PASSEY

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: December 2, 2022
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: December 6, 2022
RESOLUTION NO. 1510