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November 14, 2007

Commissioner Steve Bauer  
Kitsap County Commissioners' Office, MS-4  
614 Division Street  
Port Orchard, WA, 98366

Re: Hansville Traffic Issues

Dear Commissioner Bauer:

I write to you regarding some issues and concerns relating to the recent installation of speed bumps/speed tables in the Hansville area. By way of background, I live with my wife Laurie, and daughters, Grace and Emma, at 4800 N.E. Twin Spits Road in Hansville. We have lived there since 1993. Prior to that, I spent summers and weekends in Hansville, at our old summer place up near Skunk Bay Road, from 1965 through 1985. Hansville is very much as I remember it from my earlier years and, all in all, I believe it has handled the pressures of growth and development exceptionally well, all things considered.

As a preliminary matter, my understanding is that you live in Hansville at 7610 Bruce Lane NE, and that in July 2007 you were appointed to fill the Commissioner's slot vacated by former Commissioner Chris Endresen when she decided to leave that post to work for Senator Maria Cantwell. As I am sure you know, the recent decision by the County to install speed bumps/speed tables in several locations on the main roads in Hansville, was one of Commissioner Endresen's last acts before moving on to more lucrative opportunities.

It is also my understanding that, prior to your appointment to fill Commissioner Endresen's seat, you were an active proponent of speed control devices in Hansville, including the speed bumps/speed tables in question, and also including the proposed traffic circle at the intersection of Buck Road and Hansville Road which - mercifully - somebody finally realized was a terrible idea, and hence was deleted from the final plan approved by the County. It is also my understanding that you are, or have been, a member of the Greater Hansville Area Advisory Committee, the Road Safety Advisory Committee, or both.

As I am sure you know, a number of people in the Hansville community have reacted extremely negatively to the installation of speed bumps/speed tables on Twin Spits Road and Hood Canal Drive, which are primary collector/distributor roads for the county road network here in the north end. I expect that you will be hearing a growing volume of negative comments in that regard. With that in mind, I write to you to advise you of my extremely negative reaction to the installation of these devices, and to ask you to respond to the following questions:

1. Am I correct in my factual statement above regarding your place of residency?
2. Am I correct in my factual statements above regarding your advocacy and support for the speed bumps/speed tables and traffic circle which were proposed for Hansville?
3. Am I correct in my factual statements above regarding your membership in either the GHAAAC, RSAC, or both, and if so could you advise me of the dates of your membership?
4. Am I correct that the installation of the speed bumps/speed tables violated the County Public Works Department's accepted standards for determining on what roads such devices could be installed?
5. If your answer to question #2 above is in the affirmative, do you believe that you are capable of objectively evaluating feedback from the community and citizens whom you represent, and to put aside your own personal advocacy or interests in these devices, which you exhibited prior to your appointment as County Commissioner?
6. Are you willing to listen to other voices in the community which you represent, and to honestly consider changing or removing these devices if a significant number of your constituents demand the same?

Please respond in writing or by email at your earliest opportunity, so that I may fully understand your position and role in this whole process, and be better able to assess appropriate steps to take from this point forward.

One final note: my impression is that you have repeatedly failed to respond to communications from other area residents who have contacted you to express their displeasure at these devices, and/or at the process which led to their installation. If I am incorrect in that regard, my apologies. However, if I am correct, I ask that you tell me why you have chosen this course of action, and how you could possibly expect to sustain that approach as things move forward.

Thank you for your time and – I hope – your response.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Wiegstein", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

John H. Wiegstein  
johnw@hellerwiegstein.com

JHW/wj

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