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October 11, 2023

Stephen Pohl, Chair  
Spokane County Planning Commission  
Building & Planning Department  
1026 W. Broadway Avenue  
Public Works Building, 1st Floor  
Spokane, Washington 99260

Dear Chair Pohl and Planning Commissioners:

Subject: Comments on the proposed 2023 Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendments  
Sent via email to: [emiroshin@spokanecounty.org](mailto:emiroshin@spokanecounty.org);  
[SCHESENEY@SpokaneCounty.org](mailto:SCHESENEY@SpokaneCounty.org)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed 2023 Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendments. Futurewise works throughout Washington State to support land-use policies that encourage healthy, equitable and opportunity-rich communities, and that protect our most valuable farmlands, forests, and water resources. We have members across Washington State including Spokane County.

## Summary of Recommendations

- Futurewise supports the important improvements to the *Spokane County Capital Facilities Plan* and to Chapter 7 - Capital Facilities. We agree that these documents as proposed help meet important community needs and comply with the Growth Management Act. We appreciate the hard work of county staff, including the Prosecuting Attorney's office, and the consultants on these documents. Thank you all for your hard work. We urge the Planning Commission to recommend adoption of the proposed amendments to the *Spokane County Capital Facilities Plan* and to Chapter 7 - Capital Facilities.
- Futurewise recommends that the Planning Commission recommend the adoption of the Low Density Residential comprehensive plan and zone for the land in Application 16-CPA-04. There are better sites for moderate density residential uses in Spokane County.
- For Applications CPA-02-22 and CPA-08-23, Futurewise continues to recommend that these areas be reevaluated based on a subarea plan or the 2017 periodic update to the comprehensive plan. This will better protect

Spokane County Planning Commission  
RE: Proposed 2023 Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendments  
October 11, 2023  
Page 2

residential and light industrial uses from land use conflicts and will better ensure that the higher demands that housing puts on public facilities and services are adequately addressed.

- For Application CPA-17-23, Futurewise urges the Planning Commission to recommend denial of the proposed urban growth area revision because it violates state law. Please see page 3 of this letter for me information.

### **Comments on 2023-2037 Capital Facilities Plan - Proposed Amendments. Please recommend approval.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments to the *2023-2037 Capital Facilities Plan*. Futurewise agrees the proposed amendments are consistent with the current requirements for capital facility plans and will help the County plan for growth. We appreciate the County making these improvements to the capital facility plan. Futurewise recommends that the Planning Commission recommend approval of the proposed amendments.

### **Comments on the proposed Comprehensive Plan Chapter 7 Amendments. Please recommend approval.**

Futurewise strongly supports the proposed amendments to Chapter 7 - Capital Facilities and Utilities. Futurewise believes these amendments will help meet community needs, make the provision of public facilities more cost-effective, and comply with the current requirements of the Growth Management Act. We appreciate the County making these improvements to Chapter 7. Futurewise again urges the Planning Commission to recommend approval of the proposed amendments.

As the part of the preparation and adoption of the County's greenhouse gas emissions reduction sub-element required by June 30, 2017, Spokane County will likely need to reevaluate its natural gas policies.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> RCW 36.70A.070(9); RCW 36.70A.130(5)(c).