

Land Use # 6

My name is Douglas Dicken, I reside at 2397 S Thorp Highway, Ellensburg and I am representing myself. I have lived in Kittitas County for more than 25 years. Thank you for the opportunity to address you today.

I am a property owner and I strongly believe in my property rights. ~~In my opinion "Rural Character" is a very subjective term. I can't understand how I could possibly be denied to develop my property based on such a subjective value. One man's "rural character" is another man's subdivision.~~

I gladly signed an agreement with Jason Evans from TUUSSO Energy to lease my property for a solar facility. I have owned the land for over 20 years, and primarily use it as pasture for cattle. The rent I receive is barely enough to cover the cost of water and taxes. Having the opportunity to increase my revenue from the land is extremely appealing to me. It is also my right.

As I understand the current county code, "alternative energy" facilities are an acceptable use on Ag-20 land. The County reached that determination years ago after considerable deliberation. How can it now totally change direction and deprive me of my property rights when it has long been perfectly acceptable to do what TUUSSO proposes to do.

I have had folks from outside the county call me and ask to sell my water rights. Which is worse, having no water for pasture, leaving a field of weeds or having a solar farm that creates clean energy and keeps my "rural character" operation afloat?

Protect Kittitas County landowners' property rights and approve the applications from TUUSSO Energy to construction its solar plants in the Valley.

Green energy -
Sell water rights or turn the
ag land into "danchettes" as some
in this room have done
visual barrier
return land back to farm land at
end of lease