



Snohomish County Council

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **County Council Fights For and Wins Local Control of Growth**

Thurston County Superior Court Judge Richard Hicks on Friday reversed a decision by the Central Puget Sound Growth Management Hearings Board involving two major growth management decisions by the Snohomish County Council. The Court overturned a Board decision on an appeal initiated by the State Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development on behalf of Governor Gary Locke challenging three countywide planning policies relating to growth of urban areas and when churches in rural areas may hook up to existing sewer lines.

The appeal was ordered by Governor Locke over the objections of the five members of the county council. The policy on urban growth area expansion was supported unanimously by Snohomish County Tomorrow.

County Council Chair John Koster issued the following statement on the ruling.”

“One policy was adopted with complete cooperation from the cities in Snohomish County. The other policy allowed for churches to be built along the border of urban growth areas. In spite of these noble goals, the state of Washington attempted to impose top-down growth management by appealing these two sensible policies.

The court today rejected state-mandated growth management in favor of local control. All five members of the county council asked the Governor not to appeal and today we are vindicated. This is an important ruling for Snohomish County and our cities. But it is an equally important ruling for all local governments in the state of Washington who are trying to manage growth, provide for economic development, affordable housing, and protection of the environment.”

Koster also congratulated the work of the Prosecuting Attorney’s land use section in crafting the legislation and arguing it successfully before the Thurston County Superior Court.

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