

December 3, 2022

To: Ron Buckholt

Senior Planner

Thurston County Building Development Center

RE: Development project # 2022103702

Mr. Buckholt,

My name is George Johnston. I live at 9105 Otis Beach St NE, on the west side of Johnson Point on Henderson Inlet. I am writing to voice my concern and alarm regarding a proposal under current review by your office, that being development project #2022103702 by Taylor Shellfish to lease and develop part of a long swath of the pristine tidelands running in front of our property. Please ensure that we are listed as interested parties, and notify us of any documents, meetings, or other pertinent information concerning this application. I want to go on record as being one hundred percent against this proposal and any future such proposals for a wide variety of reasons.

My wife and I moved to this property 13 years ago after looking at waterfront homes all over the South Sound. This area being considered "pristine" was a huge part of our decision to purchase here. One thing that drove us from many areas was the dirty, noisy, smelly, brightly lit work being done along the shores in front of otherwise attractive and desirable homes. We talked to many property owners in these areas, and it was clear there was a huge problem. So, we went and visited some of these locations and saw the commotion for ourselves. It was eye opening to say the least. On top of this, with its accompanying noise, lights, and havoc, the work was allowed to go on at any hour of the night with no consideration for these homeowners right in front of their homes. Public safety factors into this too. Many said they could not get their boats of any kind to the beach at times. They felt it presented a

hazard to navigation, putting boaters in danger of having a boating accident from striking some of the structures-possibly causing injuries. How could these property owners be let down by the county like this, with such a mess in front of their private property, spoiling their once beautiful environments?

Through the years we have been here, we have enjoyed many water/beach based recreational activities: motor boating, sailing, kayaking, swimming, skiing, beachcombing, and perhaps the most pleasurable being just relaxing and enjoying the quiet view. We anticipate and fear that ALL of these enjoyments that come with the ownership of waterfront property would be severely disrupted, if not terminated, by a working project in front of the properties along our point.

Granted, the project being studied is not immediately adjacent to our property, but the writing seems to be on the wall where this type of project can evolve to. We all, everyone of us on Henderson Inlet, are required to pay for and participate in the clean water initiative for Henderson Inlet, which ensures clean and working septic systems, among other things. We pay the tax to administer the program, inspect and pump our systems, repair them as needed, and subject ourselves to inspections, dye tests, and reports. Our efforts have reportedly successfully brought back the clean and livable waters that once were common here. To think that all those efforts, countless hours and dollars, only went to further the commercial desires and money grab by Taylor Shellfish, taking advantage of OUR efforts. And is there possibly an element of a little windfall in permit fees to the county?

Property owners here pay a lot of property taxes. We pay a lot for permits - thousands – to protect and improve our land and waterfront. We endure intense scrutiny for the smallest of permit projects –

especially if it involves a shoreline. I believe those have to go through 10 or 12 agencies for approval. Yet when Taylor comes along, we get a very location-limited notification with a four-week window for public comment? During the Holiday season? It seems a little unfair. Especially when we are paying for that clean water they covet.

At the very least, immediately, I feel this comment period should be lengthened. I request postponing the closure of this comment period until the end of January when most interested parties would be back to normal after the holidays.

Along with the impenetrable wall of plastic pipes, nets, mesh, ties, ropes, and whatever else, a debrisfield is established that will always be there. Even now, we get plastics washing up from other developments. What is the impact of all these contaminants? Does anybody know? What is the impact of all these sediments being disturbed? Does it affect the thousands of sand dollars? The small crabs? The forage fish? The natural shellfish? The birds caught in the netting? We have a wonderful smelt spawning area here that we enjoy watching when they get active. What about them? Has a comprehensive Environmental Impact Study been conducted to address these and other concerns?

We are writing to you to implore you not to allow big business to sway Thurston County into allowing them to do what equates to taking a bulldozer to our shorelines. It would ruin the habitats and ecology here that we property owners AND Thurston County have worked so hard for. It would significantly reduce property values and encumber access to our property, while hastening the slow death of

Henderson Inlet. Taylor Shellfish could find some areas that are less populated to minimize the impact of their ongoing growth.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

George Johnston

Taxpayer and property owner

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Henderson Inlet

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