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To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Comprehensive Plan and Climate Change

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Dear Planning Commissioners,

It is heartening to learn that there is thoughtful attention being given to the manner in which climate change is incorporated in the Comprehensive Plan.

Whether it is best to do this via a separate Climate Change Section in the Comp Plan or by integrating strong parameters throughout the existing sections, is not something I have the expertise to weigh in on, but I do believe that climate change and its impacts will drive planning and response from now and into the future, either by choice or by force.

As we witness with some heartbreak the extreme disruptions happening in Texas, it's clear that we may not be able to get a handle on how devastating climate change will be. However, we can expect that climate change will impact everything. Even this faraway storm upended well laid plans for covid vaccination in our county by disruption of the delivery of vaccine. Climate impacts elsewhere, such as wildfires and drought, will continue to push migration to our region. This is perhaps a secondary climate impact but no less important to understand and plan for.

Our Comprehensive Plan must prioritize meaningful climate mitigation and adaptation throughout. Planning needs to be responsive to real time impacts and to changes we can't anticipate at this point in time. Accountability must be built in to assure that this pivotal issue is not sidelined in the press of 'business as usual.'

However climate change is addressed in the Comprehensive Plan specifically, I believe an Advisory Board and/or a dedicated county staff position to oversee climate plan implementation will signal our commitment as a county to honor our obligations to our children and their children as we work to assure a livable future.

Thank you, as always, for your dedication to this complex process,

Kai Sanburn
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