



Testimony on Bill 44-09
An ordinance concerning: Zoning — Violations and Enforcement
Presented on June 15, 2009

My name is Barbara Miller. I live in Fairhaven, a small waterfront community in South County, and I am speaking on behalf of the Advocates for Herring Bay.

We realize this bill is intended to avoid frivolous complaints about possible zoning violations. But there is no public good to be served by disclosing names of people who file complaints. The bill would have the effect of intimidation. We have to live with our neighbors and it could get ugly. I know of one person who was told by a neighbor: "Get your nosy self out of here. And remember, we know where you live!"

Enforcement of the Code is the responsibility of the county, yet there are not enough inspectors to keep track of everything. The county needs the help of its citizens. If the people of our county are reluctant to report violations, if time after time zoning violations are allowed to stand, if our laws are therefore not enforced -- our laws are hollow and those who would circumvent the laws have gotten what they want. At a time when the health of the watershed is close to collapse, this is unacceptable.

The Advocates for Herring Bay recommend voting against Bill 44-09.