

January 4, 2022

Dear Commissioner Overbay, Commissioner Bugert and Commissioner Gering

The Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce (WVCC) is aware that Jim Brown has recently announced his resignation as Director of the Chelan County Community Development Department. We understand this resignation is effective January 31.

WVCC believes that Community Development is one of the most important Departments in County government. The decisions that this Department makes today will have a direct impact on the County that our children work and live in, and the County that our grandchildren will grow up in. No other Department is this integral to future generations of Chelan County families.

WVCC also appreciates the difficulty and complexity of this Director position. The Director's job is to execute the will of the Commission and to manage Department staff. This staff interacts on a daily basis with members of the community, business owners, developers and other government representatives both inside the County and outside. This is a highly technical position that requires top level planning knowledge and the ability to effectively manage and run staff. We believe that the appointment of Chelan County's next Community Development Director is one of the most important decisions that this Commission will make.

Therefore, WVCC urges the Commission to allocate sufficient resources for this position in order to attract candidates of the highest caliber. We also urge the Commission to conduct a thorough and complete search for the most qualified candidate. This search should be slow, methodical, and intentional. The Commission should advertise and solicit qualified candidates both regionally and nationally. Most importantly, we urge the Commission to solicit input from both the citizens of Chelan County and the private stakeholders that work with the Department on a regular basis. This position is simply too vital to the future of our County to not have complete public input, and public buy in, to the hiring and appointment process.

Sincerely,



Cheri Kuhn, President
Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors