

Good morning. My name is Alex DeGoede, and I'm a lifelong member of the Mossyrock community.

My grandfather established DeGoede Bulb Farms in the Skagit Valley in 1951. In the mid 1970's, competition for farmable land in the Skagit Valley forced my grandfather to look elsewhere. He was drawn to Lewis County and fell in love with the Mossyrock Valley and the surrounding beauty of this place. So, in 1976, DeGoede Bulb Farms moved to Mossyrock. My grandfather, father, and uncles soon expanded operations to include not just field grown flowers, but greenhouse flowers and a retail store. Many people in this county know the DeGoede name because of our family's iconic flower farm that we operated for nearly fifty years. It became a local landmark — a place where people came to see fields of flowers, buy plants for their gardens, and enjoy the beauty of this rural area.

Growing up on and working that farm, shaped how I see this place. Mossyrock has always been about open space, agriculture, natural scenery, and a slower pace of life. People come here because it's quiet, because it's rural, and because the landscape still feels connected to nature.

That's the character of this town.

When you drive through Mossyrock today, you still see forests, farms, mountains, and wildlife. The views are part of what makes this community special.

That's why this proposed tower concerns me. Being 300 yards away from my home, it will not only ruin my view, but it's location and elevation will impact the views of the entire Mossyrock area. These same views that my grandfather fell in love with the first time he came here.

A large industrial structure like this doesn't fit with the rural character that families here like mine have worked to preserve. A tall metal tower rising above the tree line would permanently change the visual landscape of this area.

Instead of looking out at forests and hills when they drive on Birley Road, right next to the area where the Cowlitz River ~~empties into~~ <sup>flows through</sup> Mayfield Lake, residents and visitors would be looking at a piece of industrial infrastructure.

That's not what people expect when they choose to live in or visit Mossyrock.

Rural communities depend on protecting their character. Once you introduce structures that don't belong in that landscape, you can't undo that change. The view is altered permanently.

For families who have lived here for decades — and for people who moved here because of its beauty — that loss matters.

This isn't about opposing technology. It's about asking whether this particular location is appropriate.

When a project changes the visual identity of a rural town, it deserves careful consideration.

Places like Mossyrock are becoming rare. Across the country, small rural communities are struggling to hold onto their identity as development spreads outward.

We have an opportunity here to protect what makes this town unique.

Many families like mine have worked the land here and helped shape the character of this community. I hope we can continue preserving that character for the generations that come after us.

Thank you.