

To the Echo City Council and Residents of Echo:

My name is Vicente Escalante I live at 310 N Thielson St, Echo Oregon. I am both a resident of the city of Echo and a member of the Public Advisory Committee (PAC) for the city. I am writing to respectfully request that the timeline for reviewing and updating the City of Echo Comprehensive Plan through September 29<sup>th</sup>. After this point, with the input of the community, the Council can decide to move forward with an approval. My request is based on two key concerns: the accessibility of the plan's language and the accuracy of how PAC discussions have been represented in official documents.

First, much of the Comprehensive plan is written in legal and highly formal language. While formal language is appropriate for an official city document, the language should also aim to be clear and understandable for all city residents. Simplifying complex wording will reduce difficulty in residents understanding exactly what the plan outlines and will encourage city residents to be involved in providing feedback to the plan. Furthermore, with the clarification, city residents will be more likely to adhere to the plan once implemented. Although I understand that the development of the Comprehensive Plan has already been time-consuming, I believe the additional weeks will ensure a final product that is both fair and reflective of residents' best interests.

Second, I have concerns about the accuracy of some statements in recent memorandums summarizing PAC discussions. After reviewing the last two memorandums, I found that the consultant that is drafting these documents may inaccurately represent or not fully portray the discussions that have occurred within previous PAC meetings. For example, in the most recent memorandum dated August 14, 2025, it was stated that much of the slippage is due to two PAC members suggesting a "No Rules" zone. Having attended that meeting, I recall that the suggestion by the two PAC members was to follow state guidelines as a minimum. This misrepresentation is likely due to the lack of audio or video recordings taking place from the beginning of the process of updating the comprehensive plan. Hopefully with the implementation of recordings, clarification of any discussions in these meetings will no longer be required.

As I have stated numerous times throughout this entire process at each PAC meeting, the main goal for updating this Comprehensive Plan is to reflect the residents' interests while also creating structure and continuity for the cities current needs.

In summary, extending the review period would provide time not only to make the language of the Comprehensive Plan more accessible, but also to address any inaccuracies and strengthen public confidence in the process. A thorough and transparent review benefits

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both the city and its residents by ensuring the final plan truly reflects our community's best interest.

Sincerely,

Vicente Escalante

Resident & Public Advisory Committee Member