

COLVIN RANCH

16816 Old Highway 99 SE • Tenino, Washington • 98589

February 7, 2024

City of Tenino
Attn: Dan Penrose, City Planner
149 Hodgden Street South
Tenino, WA 98589

Dear City of Tenino Planning Commission,

I am writing in support of the amendment to Tenino Municipal Code (TMC)108.40.010 and TMC 108.30.125.F to allow livestock processing facilities in areas currently zoned Public/Semi-Public.

This amendment would allow a USDA processing facility to be built at the Southwest Washington Agricultural and Business Innovation Park, fulfilling a long-standing need for the infrastructure our community needs to create strong local food systems.

Other local ranchers have shared with you their personal stories about the challenges they face due to the lack of USDA meat processing facilities in our region, and the impact this has had on their ability to supply locally-raised meat to the community. These challenges have also been extensively documented in various regional studies. At Colvin Ranch, we have experienced the same challenges for decades.

We now have an opportunity to change things for the better - for both our local ranchers and our local community. The Ag Park was conceived of as a way to fill the gaps in regional infrastructure that the local agriculture industry needs to increase local food production, making our region more self-sufficient.

Aligned with this, Colvin Ranch is committed to investing in building and managing a USDA meat processing facility at the Ag Park to serve our local ranchers. Rather than shipping animals to Oregon or Eastern Washington, our local ranchers will be able to process their animals here and make their products available to the community, increasing the availability of local meat and decreasing costs for both ranchers and consumers.

We have a long way to go, but this is a critical first step. Thank you for your consideration of how we can work together to make agriculture sustainable in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Colvin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Colvin
Owner, Colvin Ranch
(360) 339-8465