

Good afternoon. My name is William Lanning. I have lived on Oakland Bay for the past 25 years.

One cannot ask for a more beautiful, serene, and tranquil setting on this earth. Oakland Bay is considered a gemstone in our county. Hopefully, it will continue to be so.

If this lease application is approved, not only waterfront home residents will be affected, but all county citizens will have lost something very special in their lives. This proposed plan will forever change the nature and the character of our region.

The waterfront folks won't be the only ones affected by this floating contraption that will benefit only one company's profit. This application is for a 10-year lease with options following. Think of this eyesore floating in the middle third of the Bay for at least the next ten years. What a tragedy this would be.

All homes in the area will see diminished values. As a result of this revaluation, property tax revenues will be significantly diminished as well, negatively impacting city and county public services.

These issues are certainly troubling, but there is one that is most concerning. That is our apathy related to what our role, as humans, is toward our environment. I was raised believing that we have a special responsibility in insuring that our natural environment be protected and that we are deemed appointed stewards of our special home.

Let's be good stewards and protect the natural beauty of our Bay.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. Lanning" with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

William Lanning

My name is Roger Willson. My wife and I live on E. Sunset Road in a home overlooking Oakland Bay. We are opposed to the Commercial Agricultural Plan for both personal and community reasons.

Today, Oakland Bay provides picturesque views that are postcard worthy. A floating oyster farm would destroy those views, and along with it, our property value. That's obviously very appalling to me given how much I have invested in my property.

But it's also appalling because this plan is not in the best interest of the Shelton community. I read material stating that Oakland Bay is not used recreationally. I disagree. Everyday there are people out on the Bay. There's water skiing, tubing, sailing, jet skiing, paddle boarding, kayaking, fishing and swimming going on out there. We watched airplanes draw water out of the Bay to fight the McEwan fire last month. So, despite what I read, the Bay is, in fact, being used by the community in many ways. Putting an Agricultural Farm on the Bay would most certainly hamper these activities.

Oakland Bay is a natural resource, and as such, should be available for the community to enjoy. We should be striving to make Shelton a place where people want to live and enjoy the outdoors. Eliminating recreational activities on the Bay is a step in the wrong direction.

I haven't heard a single person who lives on or near Oakland Bay say they are in favor of this Plan. We're home owners. We're tax payer. And we don't want this. We don't want our views destroyed. We don't want our property values to drop. We don't want the community to be denied access to a large portion of a natural resource. We want the Bay to be available to firefighters when they need it.

I believe that putting a Commercial Agricultural Farm on Oakland Bay is not good for the community and should not be approved.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger Willson".

Roger Willson
1210 E. Sunset Road
Shelton, WA 98584

Virginia B Douglas
1020 E. Sunset Rd.
Shelton, WA. 98584

Good Afternoon Sir,

My name is Ginny Douglas; my husband and I own property on East Sunset Rd in Shelton.

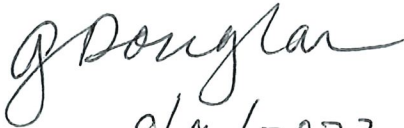
We are here, with probably a handful of others in this room, who ^{in my opinion} are unique in that we are not currently being held hostage by the greed of Taylor Shellfish Company, however, that may soon change if we are forced to accept an industrial oyster growing complex being inserted into Oakland Bay. Unlike Mason County, the Squaxin Island Tribe, Oakland Bay Marina and a handful of state agencies, we are here solely to advocate for the future of Oakland Bay's fragile ecosystem that has clearly been ravaged by industry over the decades – and, with full transparency, protect the value of our property.

After reading Mason County's recent recommendation to approve the installation of an industrial aquaculture site in the only deep water section of Oakland Bay, I was left stunned by what seems to be the county leadership's collective ignorance and apparent complacency in accepting the "deal" Taylor has made. Taylor's offer of mitigation is laughable to the rest of us and honestly, insulting.

Let's make this very clear, anyone who believes Taylor Fish is being generous in its offer of "access to 16.1 acres" of mudflats, some of which is accessible only by descending a rope, in exchange for their limitless use of 50 acres of prime waterway owned by the people of the state of Washington, can only be misguided in their expectation of fair play. Taylor only has one goal in this, and its other corporate grabs around the state, and that is only to enrich TAYLOR FISH CO. Not only are these mitigation parcels to remain under ownership of Taylor – from which they will still benefit- but Taylor will also be the sole beneficiary from compromising the health and safety of we, the people's waterway, in perpetuity or until they completely abandon the project.

I have seen no comment about who would be in charge of oversight of this industrial complex; what I have heard is from DNR employees themselves who claim to be so understaffed they couldn't give me a list of the 22 shellfish leases they currently have in the bay. We have learned that Taylor doesn't make a very good neighbor and that makes sense in that once they grab a hold of this – bar the doors, because the precedent setting nature of this project will open the literal floodgates for Taylor to move in wherever they please. Please note...the waterways Taylor cites, where there is currently industrial floating aquaculture, are in no way comparable to Oakland Bay -other than being water. Truth be told, this project will insert the largest industrial aquaculture site in the state in the middle of a very small estuary.

A few of us have been asked by the government how many times we kayak or sail the bay. Since when did the private recreation of a community become anybody's business, let alone the scale on which equal access to ^{state} federally managed waterways are measured. Since when did the "scope" of some random individual's perspective represent all who live in the vicinity of this proposed project? Many of us here today have a scope with a much greater perspective. And finally, when can we once and for all say no to Taylor's greed...I beg you, sir, to use your power to do that today!


8/9/2023

We are Bill and Florence Fierst. We own the property at 1080 East Sunset Road. I am very concerned with this project and believe that it should not be approved. I have listed my reasoning based on Mason County Code which I will provide (due to time constraints tonight) in written copy .

For today, I will just state that we have owned our property for one year. We spent our life saving to purchase it and took out a loan to finance upgrades. We have invited friends and family to join us at the beautiful Oakland Bay. Most every weekend they join us in enjoying kayaking in and across the Bay.

Our twin grandsons have stated that this is the most beautiful place in the world and would rather be on the Bay more than anywhere else in the world.

It would be terrible to impede navigation (potentially requiring up to 1,600 feet to navigate around the oyster platforms) and ruining the esthetics. (Certainly pictures that I have seen of cables running 1600 feet in Oakland Bay with oyster bags attached will impact the aesthetic quality from the shoreline.)

This project is not in the public interest, but appears to be in the interest of a large corporation.

1. County code 17.59.210 (a) (10) states, "Recognition should be given to the possible impacts that aquacultural activities might have on the aesthetic quality of the shoreline area".

Certainly pictures that I have seen of cables running 1600 feet in Oakland Bay with oyster bags attached will certainly impact the aesthetic quality from the shoreline.

2. County code 17.59.210 (a) (12) states, Aquaculture activities should be operated in a manner that allows navigational access to shoreline owners and commercial traffic.

Nine acres and potentially 50 acres of cables will impact the recreation navigational use of sport boating (kayaks). It will require significant effort to navigate around the structures.

3. County code 17.59.210 (a) (13) states, Floating aquaculture should be reviewed for conflicts with other water dependent uses in areas that are utilized for moorage, recreational boating, sport fishing, commercial fishing or commercial navigation. Such surface installation shall incorporate features to reduce use conflicts.

Again there is signification impact to recreational boating.

4. County code 17.59.210 (b) (1) (e) states, " Consistent with mitigation sequencing, aquacultural uses and developments may be required to provide mitigation where necessary to offset significant adverse impacts to normal public use of surface waters".

There will be significant impact to recreational use. What mitigation is being provided to offset the adverse effects to normal public use of surface waters?

5. County code 17.59.210 (b) (1) (j) states, " To the maximum extent practicable, floating aquaculture structures shall not substantially detract from the aesthetic qualities of the surrounding area, provided methods are allowed by federal and state regulations and follow best management practices".

There will be significant detracton from aesthetic qualities.

6. County code 17.59.210 (b) (1) (k) states, " Aquacultural structures shall be placed in such a manner, and be suitably sized and marked, so as to minimize interference with navigation".

There is no way to minimize the impact on navigation. The project is taking up 9 acres and potentially 50 acres.

7. County Code 15.09.050 (c) (2), "The development does not impact the public health, safety and welfare and is in the public interest."

This project is not in the public interest. Due to the impacts upon aesthetics and access to Oakland Bay for recreational navigation, The property values on the shoreline will be reduced and property tax payments to the State & County will be reduced.

August 9, 2023

RE: Taylor Shellfish Farms Oyster Aquaculture Floating Oyster Array on Oakland Bay Lease Application

My name is Kathy Kent-Lanning and I have resided on Oakland Bay for 30 years. My late in-laws bought the property in the 1960's, so they were familiar with Taylor Shellfish and the oyster dikes at the mouth of and in the interior of Chapman Cove. I am sure they would have been dismayed to learn that Taylor is currently proposing an industrial floating oyster aquaculture in the middle of the Bay they loved, affecting the aesthetic quality of the area and lowering home values. We now know that those log booms that were prevalent on the Bay in the past helped contribute wood waste to the water, thereby adding to the contaminants presently in the sediment. A study by The Department of Ecology in 2011, determined that Oakland Bay's sediment identifies **above acceptable** levels of dioxins and furans (PCDD/F's). Is it prudent to disturb the contaminated sediment on the sea floor by placing 60 anchors, and up to 30 screw anchors installed in the center of each line? If there are 30 double-lines, with each line requiring 30 screw anchors, there will either be 900 or 1800 for double-line screw anchors. Let us err on the side of caution as this oyster bag floating aquaculture lease proposal is being pushed forward without truly understanding the consequences of that action.

We can't underestimate the effect this unnatural barrier will have on sea life, including Southern Resident Killer Whales who have been known to feed in the area. I was excited to actually see 3 Killer Whales in our Bay last summer! The Taylor proposal will be a floating oyster net barrier that is similar to the killing fields at the Hood Canal Bridge. Salmon and other fish species are thwarted in traversing past the floating bridge on their outward journey, resulting in a high mortality rate as they are picked off by hungry seals & sea lions.

During this past winter/early spring, I noticed a sharp decline of ducks, geese, loons and other seabirds normally present in Oakland Bay close to Chapman Cove. I came to the conclusion it was more than likely due to all the boat/human activity who work the oyster bag cultivation system in Chapman Cove. We often see worker activity every day of the week, as the scope of the project has increased. The environmental cost of this proposal would be a disaster for the wildlife in the rest of the Bay, as they too would be adversely affected by all the farming activity.

Thank you for considering my comments. I am **strongly opposed** to final approval of this application. The benefit of this project is NOT to the community, but to the bank account of Taylor Shellfish. Let us all be good stewards of Oakland Bay's fragile ecosystem and preserve it for future generations to come.

Kathy Kent-Lanning
Shelton, WA

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Taylor

As a science teacher, this house is my final dream project after 40 years of teaching!! We could've bought anywhere in the entire world but we chose Shelton and specifically Oakland Bay. We had researched purchasing a retirement home for over five years from the Columbia to King County. This is not free and clear, we have 27 more years to pay on our mortgage.

I oppose this commercial project based upon the mere fact it appears to be 99 years. That is too long. If it's already a done under the table deal, it should be moved to a two-year lease so you have data to collect on the amount of trash, effects on wildlife, especially the orca whales, salmon and seals.

If Taylor Shellfish truly cared about the neighborhood, they would have done more than noticing only two neighbors with postcards and a letter that looked like junk mail. Let's not forget the postage stamp sized notice signs at their own entrance where the speed limit is 50 mph.

We have a neighbor two doors down who chose to have their own shellfish development. Personally, I think it's ugly but I don't have a problem with it because it is directly in front of their own house. Taylor is choosing to be in front of all of our houses. Taylor does not live here.

50 acres! Wow! I can't even
add a dock!

Susan M. Gonzales
360 304 9609

Mark Herinckx
860 E Sunset Rd
Shelton, WA 98584
August 9th, 2023

Luke Viscusi, Planner and Mason County Hearing Examiner
Mason County Community Development, Taylor Shellfish Proposal
615 W. Alder St.
Shelton, WA 98584

To the Examiner,

My name is Mark Herinckx, I am a Mason County Resident and my wife and I own a waterfront home on Oakland Bay. After years of hard work and a long search we found this home and bought it because of the beautiful, mostly natural view of the bay. Now the view and the bay are being threatened.

Fortunately, the Mason County Shoreline Master Program has some guiderails in place to sort out competing interests for the shoreline. Section 17.50.070, A-3 states, "Permitted uses in the shorelines of the state shall be designed and conducted in a manner to minimize, insofar as practical, any resultant damage to the ecology and environment of the shoreline area and any interference with the public's use of the water...". And section 17.50.140 places the burden of demonstrating on the county that a proposal has not interfered, blocked or discouraged use of existing access. The county and Taylor have fallen well short of demonstrating that this criterion has been even remotely met.

The inherent problem with this industrial commercial installation is its massive 50-acre size and the resultant blockade of Oakland Bay and the takeover of public access by a private company. They didn't go big, they went massive. Although Taylor likes to emphasize the smaller footprint of the nets themselves, this is complete nonsense; what matters is the 50-acre footprint, all placed dead center in the middle of Oakland Bay, in the area of the deepest most navigable water. I am a long-time boater and sailor and Taylor's argument that you would want to navigate between the 1800-foot moving lines is laughable, certainly to sailors. This will effectively shut down the bay to boaters, usurping the best prime public anchoring area for private profit. Taylor already farms a huge portion of this bay and their offer to offset this complete takeover by offering some pathetic mud access, that they currently own, is woefully inadequate. This proposal does not increase public access and the idea that Taylor is offering upgrades to a boat ramp on a bay that they intend to block access to is pathetic. See this for what it is; a private, precedent setting, industrial growing operation of massive size that does not in any way increase public access and destroys current access. Taylor's request must be denied.

Thank you, Mark Herinckx

Mark Herinckx
860 E Sunset Rd
Shelton, WA 98584
August 9th, 2023

Luke Viscusi, Planner and Mason County Hearing Examiner
Mason County Community Development, Taylor Shellfish Proposal
615 W. Alder St.
Shelton, WA 98584

To the Examiner,

Part 2. Time Permitting

I would like request that the examiner pay particular attention to Exhibit 24, which is a study on how views are impacted by aquaculture installations. Taylor's assertion that the impact will be minimal is incorrect and based on low viewing angles. Considering that the majority of the homes surrounding the bay have viewing angles that are 30' to 60' above the water, the cone of view of the viewer will be completely dominated by the footprint of this industrial operation. There is a huge difference between a natural view and a view of a commercial plant. Taylor has not and cannot get around this problem and has not adequately addressed this aspect of the SMP. This, coupled with the blocking of public access to the best water in Oakland Bay, I believe, requires a denial by the examiner.

Thank you, Mark Herinckx