

HOOD RIVER NEWS  
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR  
January 29, 2003

**Ordinance flawed**

Hood River's proposed Destination Resort Ordinance is flawed in that it requires too few restrictions on commercial development associated with resort use, and it allows land designated as golf course use count for open space.

By placing no brakes on the construction of gas stations, convenience stores, service and specialty businesses of all kinds, and even movie theaters, resort development would be of limited benefit to existing businesses in nearby communities. Such commercial development would effectively create another town wherever it was located.

The way the ordinance reads, land dedicated to golf course use would count as open space. However, golf courses do not offer the same level of wildlife habitat, and may not be compatible to siting on watershed areas due to intensive fertilizer and herbicide use. Also, a golf course would dramatically increase the water demand for resort development. Golf courses should not be considered equivalent to other types of open space.

With these considerations adequately addressed and remedied, resort development in concept is not at all incompatible with the tourism-based, outdoor recreation draw our community has become known for. Controlled expansion of amenities and facilities already in place to serve skiers and snowboarders is entirely consistent with our community and the businesses that serve other outdoor recreation users.

Our county is economically depressed, with unemployment the number one problem. Resort development is the most consistent and effective way to help regain the balance between a stable economy and retaining our quality of life.

**North Cheatham  
Hood River**