

HOOD RIVER NEWS  
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR  
February 19, 2003

### **Clear consensus**

The testimony that the Hood River Valley Planning Commission has heard over the past weeks has given the Commission a clear mandate. This mandate is that a destination resort is not wanted or needed in this county.

Approximately 80 percent of all the persons giving testimony at the recent public hearings were against the destination resort concept, while 90 percent or better of the audience members were in opposition to the resort proposal.

This was true even after Mt. Hood Meadows bussed in supporters from distant places like Portland and Salem. These numbers represent the highest opposition yet in Mt. Hood Meadows' 25-plus year effort to add unnecessary and unwanted housing to their resort. The commission must choose the no destination resort alternative, the consensus is clear, the people of Hood River County by a vast majority do not want this proposed resort or any other of its nature.

Goal 8 of the state planning codes does not require that Hood River County approve any forest land for alteration into a destination resort, this specifically includes areas where such a resort is opposed by strong local sentiment. There are few, if any, times that the Hood River County Planning Commission will ever have a chance to please such a large majority of the citizens of Hood River County on such an important issue as it is now open for them to do.

To approve a destination resort in any form will only open the gates to years of contention and hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees for the county. Let's end this battle now. I ask that the Planning Commission please keep destination resorts out of Hood River County.

**Avalon K. Totten-Denton**  
**Mount Hood**