

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/24/2020 10:53:46 PM

First name: REX

Last name: BRATTON

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Rex Bratton. I grew up in Wenatchee, attended South Wenatchee Elementary (now Mission View). Went to Pioneer Jr High and was one of the last classes to graduate from WHS (1970) before moving to the current location. My father was the Superintendent for the Shop (rolling fleet) for Wenatchee. He worked under Chet Murray, Commissioner. I attended school and am friends with his and Dean's three children.

I started skiing down hills around our home. I skied as Squilchuck, Ardenvoir, and Leavenworth ski hills. My grandfather actually jumped at the old ski jump at Leavenworth. I remember when I turned 16 and could drive how much fun Mission Ridge was - it had a chairlift vs. rope tow. No more worn out mittens. I went to Wenatchee Valley College and transferred to Central Washington State College (now CWU) and graduated with my BA in Accounting and Business (1974). 1974 was also a momentous year because it was the first year I had a season pass at Mission Ridge. With the exception of a few years, I have had a season pass every year since (even living in the Kent area for 40 years). My wife, and two kids were also season pass holders. Weekend and week long trips during the winter were always a huge amount of fun. We stayed at the Chieftain for most of our trips - until ownership changed, and we ate out. NOW both our children and their families live in Wenatchee. Both have great jobs and love the simplicity of life and the joys of life in The Valley. Being a grandparent with all four of our grandsons within blocks of us is fantastic.

WHY did they move here? From what they say, it is a great community to raise a family. All of us ski except the youngest who is only 4 weeks old. But he will. My children grew up loving Mission Ridge and Wenatchee. They were always in disbelief as we drove back to our home of 30 years in Covington, WA over the pass and saw people skiing in the rain - and they had skied in sunshine and new snow. Their love for Mission Ridge and Wenatchee was born and grown over the years. I also coached AAU basketball and we always looked for Tournaments in Wenatchee, because the gym facilities were great and the people were welcoming.

My wife Joanne and I moved back here about 8 years ago. WE LOVE LIVING HERE. She is from West Seattle - but has become a WENATCHEEITE.

But the reason Mission Ridge is such a great place is the ownership and the teams of people they employ. I have skied all over the US and Canada and these are some of the most friendly and fun people anywhere. Mission Ridge expansion needs to be supported for the following reasons:

- 1.This is a huge asset for the city and region and costs the taxpayers absolutely nothing. The current ownership continues to improve and expand the facilities, from revenues earned and personal capital infusions.
- 2.Development of real estate and expanded services, which will take many years, is to offer persons a destination "on mountain" option. Personally I love on mountain places, while our vibe of the City is an added attraction with the great restaurants, hotels, and entertainment you cannot replace the feel of "staying on the hill." Personally, I love downtown but the Mountain Music would be more fun to stay up there for sure.
- 3.To have this gem in our back yard that someone else (Scrivanich family) and the users themselves continue to support with minimal county or state investments is nearly too good to be true.
- 4.While I may not be here in 20 years to see this all come to fruition, our next generations of citizens and families will certainly benefit from a resort which can offer
  - a.Winter time activities
  - b.Summer time activities
  - c.Investment opportunities (in the form of real estate)
  - d.Huge amounts of permit and other fees for the county as development increases

In listening to our Mayor and CEO of Confluence Health talk about recruiting talent and people to move to the Valley and the impact Mission Ridge provides - is exceptionally heart warming. But most of all, it is true. I personally know a very bright young man who moved here about three years ago to take a job in his field, Petroleum Engineering. Then moved to Colorado for a job opportunity. But JUMPED at the chance to come work at Chelan County PUD so he could ski Mission. He is young. He is getting married to a local girl this summer. He will raise a family. Mission Ridge DOES MATTER.

I urge the County to approve the expansion plans and look forward to the future of our Home Town Mountain.

Sincerely,

Rex O. Bratton