



RECEIVED

MAR 21 2018

PEND OREILLE CO.
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Kalispel Tribe of Indians
P.O. Box 39
Usk, WA 99180

(509) 445-1147
(509) 445-1705 fax
www.kalispeltribe.com

March 20th, 2018

To: Pend Oreille County Planning Commission

Re: Proposed Changes to the Development Regulations

The Kalispel Tribe appreciates the Planning Commission's efforts to ensure that land use and development decisions in Pend Oreille County are made in a transparent and impartial manner. These efforts are more important than ever in light of HiTest Sand's proposal to build a silicon smelter in Newport. It is essential that Pend Oreille County give its citizens a meaningful opportunity to participate in a decision that may affect their lives for decades to come.

With this in mind, the Tribe supports the Planning Commission's desire to retain authority to conduct public hearings for all Class 4 decisions. Your meetings provide the best available venue for public participation because they are centrally located and held in the evening when more people are able to attend. As HiTest will not be able to build its smelter without an amendment to the Future Land Use Map and Comprehensive Plan, the public is likely to view the removal of the Planning Commission from the Class 4 decision making process as an attempt to make the permitting process easier for HiTest.

Given that Chapter xx.14.060(A) of the Pend Oreille County Development Regulations establishes a clear intent to consolidate review of Class 4 decisions with any Comprehensive Plan amendments, the Tribe believes that it is premature for the County to amend its development regulations. We urge the Planning Commission to advise the Board of County Commissioners to withhold making any amendments to its development regulations until its annual consideration of Comprehensive Plan amendments. Such action will also neutralize any public concerns that the County is amending its Class 4 review procedures as an accommodation to HiTest.

Sincerely,


Deane Osterman

Executive Director