

Pierce County Purchase and Transfer of Development Rights Ordinance

Please lend your support to the Pierce County Purchase and Transfer of Development Rights (PDR/TDR) program going for a full County Council vote on **Tuesday, November 27th**. The Council's Community Development Committee voted on October 29th to adopt the PDR/TDR ordinance (ordinance #2007-91) and we need to make sure it gets approved without being watered down in the final council vote!

What is a TDR?

It transfers development rights (TDR) from sending sites (farms, forests and critical areas) to receiving sites (urban areas) through a voluntary, market-driven program (established by Pierce County legislation).

TDR is a tool used across the nation to compensate farmers and foresters for their development value, while not having to pave over the farm. The farm will remain protected, forever, from development.

Why do we need this ordinance?

Each year, Pierce County loses almost **900 acres of farmland** through conversion to other uses—that's more than one Point Defiance Park lost every year!

- The Purchase and Transfer of Development Rights program can begin to reverse this trend. It is designed to **conserve working farms and forestlands that still exist and curb suburban sprawl.**
- This bill provides a tool to steer growth—not limit it—to where it makes the most sense—where infrastructure already exists to support it. It does this through a mechanism that is market-driven, respecting both the rights of property owners and the ability of developers to make a profit.
- This legislation will help protect these resource economies, our rural heritage and wild places—the reason we choose to make Pierce County home.

How can I make a difference?

Help ensure that from now on, when the County Council is asked to approve increased zoning densities that will result in new development, their decision will benefit *all* Pierce County residents.

**Mark your calendar to attend the Nov 27th
Council Hearing and Final Vote at 3:00 pm
Pierce County Council Chambers
(930 Tacoma Ave S, Room 1046)**

Urge the Council to pass the PDR/TDR bill on November 27th with the *same integrity* that it had coming out of Committee.

Contact council members and let them know you strongly support TDRs in Pierce County.

Terry Lee, co-sponsor & Council Chair terry.lee@co.pierce.wa.us
Shawn Bunney, co-sponsor sbunney@co.pierce.wa.us
Calvin Goings, co-sponsor cgoing1@co.pierce.wa.us
Roger Bush, rbush@co.pierce.wa.us
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You can access more information at: www.cascadeagenda.com/strategies/pierce-tdr

Or contact Ryan Mello at the Cascade Land Conservancy: ryanm@cascaDELand.org; 253-274-4955