



Chelan County

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BOCC STATEMENT (Oct. 3, 2025)

The Board of County Commissioners is disappointed that the regional port chose to ignore repeated requests by Chelan County and its citizens to cooperatively resolve this and instead filed a lawsuit that will cost Chelan County citizens more money fighting in court. The six-month moratorium was put in place to protect the citizens of Chelan County, giving us time to update the Chelan County Comprehensive Plan and its Transportation Element and to complete the new Malaga Urban Growth Area, work that is expected to be completed next year.

The regional port has shown it is unclear about the long-term impacts of a tax increment financing area in Chelan County, which will last up to 25 years. Twenty-five years is a long time. Without solid planning, we could see lasting ramifications. We stand by the six-month moratorium and continue to ask the regional port to pause this effort and put all citizens first.

-- Commissioner Shon Smith, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners