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To Whom It May Concern,

While I am thankful to have the opportunity to provide feedback to the Long Range Planning Committee, I was beyond surprised to see that we are revisiting the rezoning of children who live just a few miles away from their elementary school. Specifically, my children live 3.5 miles away from Garwood Elementary and your proposal would move them to Twin Lakes Elementary which is 7.1 miles away from their home. If the goal is efficiency, this does not meet the goal.

With this proposal you would be displacing an estimated 70-80 children from Garwood Elementary. This school that has been their home, where they feel safe & nurtured, & where they thrive. I have the upmost confidence that Twin Lakes Elementary would provide a similar, safe, & nurturing environment, but it is not always an easy transition for children to move schools.

Moving elementary age children from an amazing school, like Garwood, will be traumatic. Children who change schools can struggle more academically, socially, their self-esteem can suffer, it can be psychologically stressful, & overall it can be difficult for them to adjust to a new school's teaching approach.

I love our community, I grew up in Rathdrum, I went to Garwood Elementary from 2nd-6th grade and graduated from LHS. A significant factor in choosing my home was that my children could attend Garwood Elementary, LMS, & LHS. We have lived in the same home zoned for Garwood Elementary for 9 years and in fact, my home has been zone for Garwood Elementary since the school was built. My oldest daughter attended Garwood for 6 years and my youngest has been there for 4 years. I am a widowed single mother with two children, this move from Garwood Elementary to Twin Lakes Elementary would be very hard for us, and difficult for many other families.

Something else to consider, the quickest route to TLE for my family requires a left-hand turn off Scarcello and onto Highway 41 and another left-hand turn leaving TLE crossing Highway 41. That intersection is heavy with traffic, dangerous, and there are no traffic lights.

We have a strong & safe community, we have our own efficient system in place with friends, family, & other parents. Our children thrive at Garwood Elementary, and this proposed rezoning would uproot all of that.

The prairie is going to continue to grow, with more families & elementary aged children, not the Ramsey-Ohio Match-Old Highway 95-Chilco loop. Please reconsider this rezoning proposal, as there are other ways to be more efficient, good financial stewards, be less disruptive, & not have to create a new rezoning proposal in the next few years.

Sincerely,


Ashley Gorham