

COUNTY OF WASHINGTON  
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March 20, 2025

Senator Talbot Ross, Representative Pluecker and distinguished members of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

My name is Renée Gray and I serve as the Washington County manager. I am speaking on behalf of the Washington County Commissioners, in opposition of LD870 and the changes proposed within.

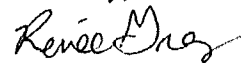
Just a few statistics: of the 2,563 square miles of land area in Washington County, 1,214 square miles is in the Unorganized Territory (UT) or Plantations, or 47.4%. This makes the UT and Plantations the largest taxpayer by geographical standards. According to the 2020 census, 2,563 people reside in the Unorganized Territories of Washington County.

The Commissioners of Washington County take their responsibility as overseers of the UTs and Plantations very seriously. They have hired a UT supervisor that manages the UTs and takes care of many duties, such as E-911 addressing, road maintenance and repair, bridge maintenance, solid waste management, animal control, shellfish management, just to name a few. The UT supervisor prepares and presents in depth reports to the County Commissioners every month in a meeting designated for Unorganized Territories.

Much like towns and cities that have select boards and councils, the County Commissioners serve as the municipal officers for the UTs and Plantations. The LUPC membership made up of individuals selected and chosen by the County Commissioners and therefore feel no changes are necessary. Passage of the tenants of this bill would undermine the responsibilities of County Commissioners and bestow unnecessary power in the hands of "commissioners" who are less knowledgeable about rural counties and not accountable to the citizen of those counties. The Washington County Commissioners are in opposition of LD870.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,



Renée Gray  
Washington County Manager

"The Sunrise County – where the sun first shines!"