

## ***Orem City – Lakeview Area***

Richard C. Wilkerson

1. Over the past 40 to 50 years Utahans have gradually become more dependent on imported food.
  - Imported food is unreliable in volume as well as quality.
2. We need to preserve good food growing land for our people's food security, for the present and especially for future generations.
  - Is it right for us to leave our descendants without the means to provide for themselves?
  - The food growing lands are rapidly being turned into housing or other uses.
- 3. Housing is needed, but food is essential. It's a matter of getting all things in the right place.***
4. The Lakeview area includes some of Utah's best vegetable growing land. Good vegetable ground is scarce and needs to be highly cherished as a very important part of our food security.
  - If this vegetable land is housed over it will be major loss as it cannot be replaced.
5. Housing can go to other localities but few places in Utah can grow like this area. This essential natural resource needs to be preserved.

To: Orem City Council  
From: Bruce Webb

I am writing to support the proposal that the Lake View area in West Orem be maintained as an agricultural area in the future development of Orem City. I base my support on three factors.

First, this area has soils that are very productive. The soil texture ranges from a silt loam to a fine sandy loam with less than a two percent slope. It has a history of being a highly productive agricultural area.

Second, consumption of locally grown fruits and vegetables has increased radically in the last ten years. Local farmer's markets have increased 300 percent in that time period. It is expected that this demand will continue in the future. This highly productive area of West Orem could meet the demands of a growing population in Utah County.

Third, our lifestyle is enhanced by maintaining open space. There is something very therapeutic about living in an area where open space is protected. Every city in Utah County needs to recognize this need and plan accordingly. Urban sprawl can easily take over all of our open space with the resulting lower quality of life.

We must realize that once our agricultural land is lost to urban development it can never be reclaimed. In many areas of the county the loss is almost 100 percent. We now need to preserve what is left for future generations.

Sincerely,

Bruce L. Webb  
Senior Soil Scientist, Emeritus  
Brigham Young University

To whom it may concern,

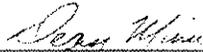
Dean Miner and I, Taun Beddes, are both Extension field faculty (Extension Agents) for Utah State University in Utah County. We both serve local agricultural related businesses and residents by providing research-based information according to their needs. We have also been educationally and personally involved with agriculture for most of our lives.

Although, as a policy we professionally remain neutral concerning political issues, a specific request was made to us by Richard Wilkerson to speak as to the quality of the soil and land around 2000 South and Geneva Road currently in agricultural production. We gladly provide the following information for this specific request:

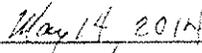
- We can provide records that show the ground has been farmed for the last 100 years and potentially longer.
- The soil (being a sandy loam, which is uncommon for Utah) is very productive and useful for growing many crops ranging from fruit trees and vegetables to grains and alfalfa.
- The area is also one of the few in Northern Utah County in agricultural production.

Again, we remain professionally neutral regarding potential future plans for this land. We give those involved with this process our best wishes and appreciate efforts and sacrifices made to benefit the residents and businesses of Utah County.

With regards,



Dean Miner, USU Extension Agricultural Agent



Date



Taun Beddes, USU Extension Horticulture Agent



Date