

Snohomish County Boards & Commissions Application Form

SNOHOMISH COUNTY BOARDS & COMMISSIONS APPLICATION FORM

NOMINEE: Please fill in this section

Name of Board/Commission: Agricultural Advisory Board

New Appointment

Snohomish County Council District (Please choose one): Snohomish County

Name Steven Losleben

Home Address

Mailing Address (if different)

City Monroe

State WA

Zip Code 98272

Telephone (Home)

Telephone (Work)

Email

Current Employer Werkhoven Dairy

Occupation Dairy Farmer

Education Bachelor's of Science - Geology

Licenses held (if applicable) *Field not completed.*

Why would you like to serve on this board/commission? Farming was not a family profession for me. My grandparents' dairy farmed in Snohomish County until the early 2000's with no one to take over the operation. I began working at the dairy while dating my wife in 2017. In that time, I have seen multiple

farms close or greatly reduce their capacity. I have built relationships with several former dairy farmers that share their experiences navigating key obstacles such as urban sprawl, the market, and regulatory environment. I have been fortunate to be a part of a team with a bright future of farming in Snohomish County. I would like to serve on this board to advocate for the importance of farming. Farming has an important role in the community serving as a floodway capacity, scenic and recreational areas, and most importantly, as a sustainable food security to the region. I would like the ability to share the experiences and general desires of my colleagues in the dairy industry.

Please explain why you are a qualified candidate, including relevant professional experience, to serve on the board/commission.

I worked as a geologist for an environmental consulting firm for a number of years. During that time, I represented private individuals and entities to provide professional recommendations for navigating State and Federal regulations. I had the opportunity to provide services in several states throughout the U.S. This gave me the opportunity to familiarize myself with State laws and regulations across the nation that were created for a similar goal and purpose (to protect the environment), but in practice, were executed in very different ways. This experience has shaped my understanding that rules, regulations, and opinions have both predictable and unforeseen consequences and that the lens through which it is viewed, will have a profound effect on the outcome.

Most importantly, my experience as a young dairy farmer gives me a unique perspective on the board. I am at the beginning of my agricultural career and am facing many of the obstacles faced by my predecessors. I am of the opinion that this field should be held to a high standard, the business should be challenging; however, I also believe that the opportunity to succeed should be available. My perspective, from someone who served in the environmental field and later chose the life as a dairy farmer, will be of value to the board to as I hope to increasing the viability of future farming in the region.

Please list community involvement/volunteer activities

Past Highschool Youth Group Leader at New Hope Fellowship, Monroe

How did you learn of this opportunity?

Linda Neunzig informed me that this position would become available and recommended I apply.

Snohomish County and County Council are subject to public disclosure. The practice of the council office is to post all meeting and hearing materials to our website to ensure transparency, as well as to assist in facilitating public records requests.
