



City of Cle Elum
119 W 1st Street
Cle Elum, WA 98922

July 30, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

Access to appropriate and necessary healthcare in rural communities is vital to maintaining a healthy population. Access to healthcare requires options for community members to choose the best option for their needs and for timely treatment and care. Kittitas Valley Healthcare and Kittitas County Hospital District No. 2 are in full support of Whole Health Pharmacy and their goal of increasing access to pharmaceutical care through opening a new location in Cle Elum.

When the Cle Elum Pharmacy closed on July 24, 2024, residents in Upper Kittitas County were left with only one option for accessing needed prescriptions. When a pharmacy is not available nearby, timely access to pharmaceutical services can be compromised due to lack of transportation options, weather conditions, or patients being too sick to travel long distances to the nearest pharmacy. Furthermore, rural populations, such as Upper Kittitas County, tend to be older and have more chronic health conditions than urban populations, which makes access to pharmacy services fundamental to maintaining the populations health. Those aging in a rural setting who are more likely to have multiple prescriptions benefit greatly from building relationships with their pharmacist, who with their physician, can manage the patients' medications and chronic illnesses. Regardless of age, pharmacy services are an essential component to healthcare in a rural community.

Whole Health Pharmacy has been an integral partner serving the underserved in Kittitas. Whole Health Pharmacy would be a vital partner in maintaining the health of the residents in Upper Kittitas County by bringing their expertise and services to provide the residents of Upper Kittitas County with vaccinations, medication fulfillment, and retail pharmacy space. In addition, Whole Health Pharmacy will provide the option of meeting the residents of Upper Kittitas County where they are by providing home delivery of prescriptions and a drive through window for easy access to not only the aging population, but to all residents of Upper Kittitas County. Opening a new location of Whole Health Pharmacy in Cle Elum will be of great benefit to the residents of Cle Elum, South Cle Elum, Roslyn, Easton, Ronald, and Snoqualmie Pass.

I hope you will consider allowing Whole Health Pharmacy to open in Upper Kittitas County.

Sincerely,

Julie Petersen
Hospital District No. 1 CEO
Hospital District No. 2 Superintendent

Chelsea Newman
KVH Family Medicine of Cle Elum
201 Alpha Way
Cle Elum WA 98922
509-674-5331
8/14/24



City of Cle Elum- City Council and Planning Department
119 West First St
Cle Elum WA 98922

Dear City Council Members and Planning Department,

This is a letter to support the introduction of another pharmacy to serve the residents of Upper Kittitas County. As you likely know, Cle Elum Pharmacy had to close its doors suddenly and all of the patient prescriptions were sent to Safeway in Cle Elum. As a healthcare provider in Cle Elum, I have recently had multiple conversations with patients who express a strong desire to have another option for pharmacy services. We have partnered with Whole Health Pharmacy for several years and are very supportive of their interest in expanding their services from Ellensburg into Cle Elum.

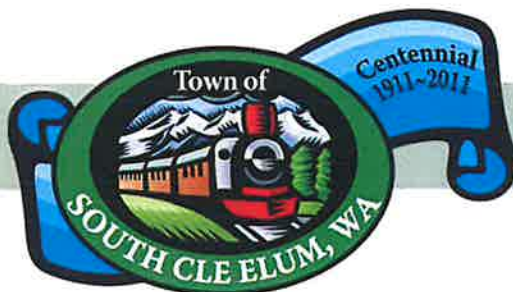
Many of our patients have expressed concern that there is no longer a drive-thru window for patients. For people with disabilities and mobility issues, it is very difficult for them to get to the back of the Safeway store for prescriptions. Many of them went to Cle Elum pharmacy for the convenience and safety that the drive-thru window afforded them. It was also very helpful for reducing the spread of disease when patients with COVID could access their medications without going into the store. Whole Health is also proposing to do some home deliveries which has been an incredible service for patients without transportation and patients with severe health issues that make leaving their homes extremely difficult.

I would strongly encourage the city to consider Whole Health Pharmacy's proposal for a pharmacy with a drive-thru window to better serve the residents of this region.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Chelsea Newman PA-C
Family Medicine of Cle Elum

P.O. Box 160
South Cle Elum, WA 98943



PHONE: 509-674-4322
FAX: 509-674-5942
EMAIL: townhall@southcleelum.org

City of Cle Elum
Attn: Planning Department
119 West First Street
Cle Elum, WA 98922

05 February 2025



RE: Letter of Support – File No. VAR-2025-001, Whole Health Pharmacy

Dear Planning Department,

On behalf of the Town Council and myself, I would like to show our support for Whole Health Pharmacy's request for a variance allowing a drive-through facility in Cle Elum. The Notice of Application for their request was discussed at last night's Town Council Meeting. It was unanimous across the council table that the need for another pharmacy in Cle Elum is more than great. The possibility of having a second choice to fill prescriptions in the Upper County is wonderful. It was mentioned that the one and only pharmacy at Safeway has become crowded with long lines and wait times and does not offer a drive-through window, which is very inconvenient if that is all you need.

There were not any negative probable impacts that were discussed during the council meeting proving that Whole Health Pharmacy should be granted a variance to allow their drive-through pharmacy with associated vehicle stacking space located with-in the city's right-of-way. If you have any questions for the Town, please reach out to the Clerk/Treasurer, Luanne Osiadacz at townhall@southcleelum.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'James DeVere'.

James DeVere
Mayor, Town of South Cle Elum



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

South Central Region
2809 Rudkin Road
Union Gap, WA 98903-1648
509-577-1600 / FAX: 509-577-1603
TTY: 1-800-833-6388
www.wsdot.wa.gov

February 11, 2025

City of Cle Elum
119 West First Street
Cle Elum, WA 98922



Attn: Colleda Monick, Planning Consultant

RE: VAR-2025-001, Whole Health Pharmacy
SR 903 (First Street) milepost 1.13 Rt.

We have reviewed the proposed project and have the following comment.

The subject property is adjacent to State Route 903 (SR 903), a Class 5 Managed Access highway located within the corporate limits of the City of Cle Elum. Access control for this portion of SR 903 is the authority of the City of Cle Elum, in accordance with RCW 47.24. It is important to note, RCW 47.50.030 requires cities to meet, or exceed, the Department's access requirements (WAC 468-52-040) to state highways.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this proposal. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Aaron Hatfield (509) 268-8497.

Sincerely,

**Stephen P.
(Phil) Nugent**

Digitally signed by
Stephen P. (Phil) Nugent
Date: 2025.02.11 15:40:40
-08'00'

Stephen P. (Phil) Nugent
Region Planning Manager

SPN: akh/mnk

cc: SR 903, File #2025_001