

**Talking points: Public comment on the Planning Commission recommendation that all new shooting facilities be located indoors, in industrial and commercial zones**



Drafted by: Tarboo Ridge Coalition

Why back indoor ranges?

- They are safe—even stray bullets are contained.
- They minimize noise pollution, so make good neighbors.
- Outdoor ranges are a major source of lead and copper contamination in the United States. Indoor ranges are not.
- Outdoor ranges have been responsible for triggering major wildfires—an increasing threat in the Pacific Northwest. Indoor ranges have not.
- Over 16,000 indoor ranges are operating in the U.S. today.
- Locating indoor ranges in industrial and commercial zones protects working forests.
- They reduce disputes and litigation by making design and permitting requirements clear and operational oversight efficient.
- The Planning Commission researched the issues thoroughly, and their recommendation passed *unanimously*.
- Regulating gun ranges is consistent with the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment and does not conflict with federal or state law regarding the right to own and use firearms. In a county with limited developable land in private ownership, increasing population, and increasing threat of wildfire due to climate change, requiring new ranges to be indoors represents a close fit with county government’s obligation to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of its citizens and the integrity of the natural environment. “Close fit” is the key finding of the *Ezell vs. City of Chicago* decisions (case numbers available upon request).