



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Debbie Strand
509-962-7244

Noted Economist to Discuss Kittitas County Retail Leakage

ELLENSBURG, Wash. -- The Economic Development Group will sponsor a community presentation featuring Jim Mooney, President of DeSCo of Valparaiso Indiana. Mooney will announce the results of a report commissioned by the Economic Development Group regarding retail leakage from Kittitas County. The public is invited to the meeting at the Hal Holmes Center at 201 N Ruby Street in Ellensburg on Wednesday, August 3rd at 8:00 a.m.

The presentation is intended to provide information for the community regarding how economists determine the amount of retail leakage from a community. Along with his own analysis, Mooney will comment on a recently released study developed by Property Counselors, Inc.

Jim Armstrong, Chair of the Economic Development Group, says, "We commissioned this report because retail leakage is one of the paramount issues people are looking at in the current comprehensive plan revision. How much of our retail trade leaks away to other communities is important in terms of taxes, employment and of course the discussion over whether to allow more and larger retail development. We thought that relying on one analysis, especially one with ties to the development community just wasn't prudent in this situation. We needed independent statistics."

Mooney has 25 years of experience as a consultant working with both private and public sector clients. DeSCo is a business and economic development consulting agency providing management consulting services, market definition and creative design services, and business planning and capital sourcing. Mooney has a Masters Degree in Development Administration from Michigan State University and is currently working on a second Masters Degree. He has authored several books and is a member of the faculty of the Economic Development Institute.

Debbie Strand, Executive Director of the Phoenix Group commented, "The purpose of this meeting is to present the data collected by the private consultant to the public. This is an opportunity for the community to get additional information regarding retail leakage and ask questions of the consultant."

The Economic Development Group is the associate development organization for the county. The group's mission is to provide leadership that stimulates business and promotes economic opportunities to support the needs of Kittitas County. The Economic Development Group focuses on business recruitment, retention and expansion.

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