



News Release

The Coalition For Agriculture's Future

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Coalition For Agriculture's Future **Endorses Kathy Alder For Commissioner**

For Immediate Release
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The Coalition for Agriculture's Future today endorsed Kathy Alder for Canyon County Commissioner District 2.

“We believe that Kathy Alder's approach to Canyon County government best reflects the Coalition's commitment to preserving and promoting for Idaho the agricultural heritage and traditions that have forged the values and character of its people and which have crafted the foundations of responsible stewardship of its natural resources,” said George Crookham, Coalition Chairman.

The Coalition did not make an endorsement for District 1 candidates.

Coalition members particularly liked Alder's position on Conditional Use Permits. The candidate has said she believes the County needs to “re-think the casual use” of the permits and “require large subdivisions to be rezoned” because it does change the use of the land from agriculture to residential.

The reckless use of Condition Use Permits to end run comprehensive planning and zoning which results in the loss of agricultural lands is a red flag item on the Coalition's list of critical issues.

An endorsement by the powerful industry group for a candidate for Canyon Country Commissioner represents a major campaign asset in a region with a strong traditional agricultural base. The Coalition for Agriculture's Future is formed from more than a dozen different agri-businesses, companies and associations representing a broad spectrum of the Treasure Valley's \$3 Billion agricultural economy.

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Kathy Alder was the only candidate in the upcoming Canyon County Commission elections to earn an endorsement from the Coalition, A group of Coalition members interviewed Canyon County Commissioner candidates at a special forum in April. High on the list of issues put to the candidates were questions regarding the continuing urbanization of agricultural land and how it impacts the agriculture industry in southwestern Idaho.

The candidates were also evaluated on their ability to identify and understand the critical issues involved in the growing conflicts between preserving farmland and commercial and residential development.

“Those issues are of paramount concern to the Coalition. We want to work with elected officials who can identify and incorporate into political decision making the kinds of critical land management principles and practices we believe are essential to the preservation of Idaho’s agricultural heritage and traditions and its economical contribution. Kathy Alder clearly met that criterion,” Crookham added.

Other goals of the Coalition are:

- a) To safeguard Idaho’s agricultural heritage and traditions by forming cooperative partnerships with public and private organizations
- b) To educate the public about the threats to its agricultural heritage, traditions and economy posed by irresponsible urban development of historic agricultural lands.

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