Utrecht, 3 December 2018

Dear Doug Ramsay,

Hereby I would like to submit our manuscript named *"* *Community-led and Government-fed. Comparing informal planning practices in depopulating regions across Europe.”* for publication in Journal of Rural and Community Development.

This manuscript builds on the conclusions of my PhD research, concerning community initiatives in European rural regions. For this research community initiatives and their plan-making capacities were studied in three – institutionally diverse – depopulating regions in Europe. It was found that despite regional differences, communities mostly showed similarities concerning their planning practices. The interaction with institutional context and government-led plan-making however was however different for every region. This manuscript discusses the backgrounds and consequences of these similarities and differences. As this manuscript builds on case study evidence from varying regions in Europe, the results provide general understandings of community-led planning and their interactions with governmental planning.

In the Journal of Rural and Community Development citizen initiatives and their contributions to livable rural areas have been widely discussed. This manuscript builds on the earlier published research by Hans Elshof and Ajay Bailey (2015), and adds a dialectical perspective on community-government interactions.

The research described in this manuscript has not been submitted to other journals. Data from De Achterhoek, Galician and Östergötland case studies has been gathered for a PhD research, which was defended at Radboud University: Meijer, M. (2018). *Community-led Government-fed and Informal. Exploring planning from below in depopulating regions across Europe.* Nijmegen School of Management. Nijmegen, Radboud University. PhD Manuscript, 190 pp..

We look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,

Marlies Meijer

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