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Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 7:35 AM
To: Planning and Sustainability Commission <psc@portlandoregon.gov>
Cc: Mike Houck <mikehouck@urbangreenspaces.org>; Hendrickson, Nancy <NANCY.HENDRICKSON@portlandoregon.gov>; Susan Barthel <SUSAN.BARTHEL@portlandoregon.gov>;
Corrina Chase <Corrina.Chase@columbiaslough.org>
Subject: Testimony re RWA #8073

Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission
1900 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 7100
Portland, OR 97201

To: Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission
From: Linda Robinson and Alice Blatt

Re: (RWA #8073) NE Marx St, NE Deering Dr, NE 111th & NE 112th Aves -- Proposed Street Vacation and Public Access Issues

Date: June 26, 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed street vacation and public access issues related to NE Marx St, NE Deering Dr, NE 111th & NE 112th Aves (RWA #8073).

We are writing to you as long-time advocates of the Columbia Slough and founding members of the Columbia Slough Watershed Council, urging you to maintain an important access point.

The Columbia Slough offers significant land and water trails opportunities for residents of all ages. However, there are few access points to the Slough. The connection at NE 112th is one of only a few points where the public can access the Slough. It should not be relinquished.

This area, known as Little Four Corners (where the Columbia Slough main stem and the Whitaker Slough merge), is one of the few locations that provides access to an easy natural launch for canoes and kayaks. It is also one of the most unique areas on this complex waterway, noted for the clear springs bubbling up from the bottom. The water is clear, cold and constant. This access point will also provide access to the long-planned, but not yet built, Columbia Slough Water Trail.

We feel very strongly that, during this street vacation process, the City needs to preserve public access, by either:

- Vacating NE Deering Drive only, not 112th, or
- Creating a public easement that will allow the public to use the trail from the end of 112th to the Slough.

Thank you for considering our comments. We urge you to protect this important public good.

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