

Amend Trees In Development Situations Code to extend sunset date for certain tree preservation regulations in development situations on private property

If you wish to speak to Council, please print your name, address and email

| | Name (PRINT) | Address and Zip Code (Optional) | Email (Optional) |
|-----|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ✓ 1 | Micah Meskel | 5151 NW Cornell Rd. 97222 | mmeskel@audubonportland.org |
| ✓ 2 | Toni Holmberg | 5052 SW Nevada Ct | toniholmberg43@gmail.com |
| ✓ 3 | Brad Baugher | 5052 SW Nevada Ct | bradbaugher@gmail.com |
| ✓ 4 | Edith Gillis | | |
| ✓ 5 | CREG SWIDOFF | 1148 SE 50TH AVE PDX 97215 | CREGSWIDOFF@GMAIL.COM |
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| 8 | | | |
| 9 | | | |
| 10 | | | |

Item # 1156

TESTIMONY

Trees in Development Situations "Extend Sunset Date"

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, **PRINT** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (**Print**)

ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE

Email (optional)

| | | |
|------------------|--|---------------------------|
| ✓ Bob Bernstein | 7815 th SE Main 97215 | |
| ✓ CREG SNIDER | 1148 SE 50 th AVE, PDX 97215 | CREG.WSNIDER@GMAIL.COM |
| ✓ DAWN SMAULMAN | 1148 SE 50 th , PORTLAND OR 97215 | |
| ✓ Jan Zuckerman | 2914 NE 18 th PDX 97212 | janzuckie@gmail.com |
| ✓ Lynn Handlin | 12244 SE Holzsch | |
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| ✓ Bob Salinger | Aurora | |
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| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

McClymont, Keelan

From: Diaz, Samuel
Sent: Friday, December 13, 2019 3:02 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Cc: Peter Sallinger
Subject: Fw: Portland Youth Climate Council Invited Testimony
Attachments: Tree Code testimony.pdf

Dear Council Clerk's Office,

Can you please enter this as part of testimony for Item 1156 on December 12, 2019 at 5:00 PM Time Certain?

Peter,

Thanks so much for working on the tree code resolution. Katherine and I are looking at dates to have PYCC meet with the Mayor's Office as soon as possible on this.

Thank you,
Sam

From: Peter Sallinger <psallinger8@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2019 4:58 PM
To: Diaz, Samuel <Samuel.Diaz@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: Portland Youth Climate Council Invited Testimony



The City's email systems have identified this email as potentially suspicious. Please click responsibly and be cautious if asked to provide sensitive information.

Good afternoon,

My name is Peter Sallinger and I am the member of the Portland Youth Climate Council who testified at the last tree code hearing. I know that one of our adult mentors, Ginny Stern, has been in touch with you, and she mentioned that I could send a copy of my testimony to you so that it could be in the public record, and that you could possibly forward it to Commissioner Fish, who was out of office that day.

I realize I am submitting this right before the vote takes place, but if nothing else I hope you can ensure that it gets forwarded to the right people for it to be placed in the record.

Thanks!

Sincerely,
Peter Sallinger

Portland Youth Climate Council

Portland Youth Climate Council Invited Testimony

Good afternoon city council,

My name is Peter Sallinger and I am here representing the Portland Youth Climate Council. We would like to thank you for inviting us to speak today. We have been working on this issue for nearly a year and are thrilled that the City is beginning to take action.

I would like to begin by requesting a public testimony period. Our understanding is that the sunset clause hearing was extended in order to solve the due process dilemma presented by Commissioner Eudaly's amendment. While written submissions are available, we think it is vital that the City hear directly from the public on this issue.

The Portland Youth Climate Council supports a full removal of the sunset clause on large tree mitigation. Nobody wants to come back and hash this out again years down the road. However, we see the next best alternative as a five year extension of the sunset clause, contingent on the City creating a clear resolution to further study mitigation requirements, and providing the funding necessary so that we will not find our selves in the same dilemma come 2025. We appreciate the City's leadership in developing a solution to this issue before the sunset expires, as well as the work of the Urban Forestry Commission and Planning and Sustainability Commission.

While we were invited today to speak on large tree mitigation, after reflection we have decided it would not be consistent with our values nor with the urgency that the climate crisis necessitates for us to not address commercial and industrial tree exemptions. The two issues are intertwined.

Industrial and commercial exemptions should be being voted on today. In reality, they should have been voted on years ago.

Title 11 is in need of revision and strengthening, but the fact of the matter is that industrial and commercial exemptions should have been part of the original code. Pushing the exemptions off as part of a larger revision process will only ensure that more trees are cut while we wait for what could be years for a solution. Corporate interests got off on a technicality, and while the City assured the public that they would address the issue after an Economic Opportunities Analysis had been completed, they failed to do so. This is the reason why today we see trees coming down at places like Wapato Jail. This is not an issue that requires a long planning process, because it was already part of the plan. Economic Opportunities Analysis requirements have been met, and now we must act.

Portland needs to be a city of action. Some may look at industrial and commercial land and think that in the larger, global context of climate change and carbon emissions it is an insignificant decision. I see it as a test: if the City of Portland cannot pass a code change as simple as this that should have been dealt with years ago, as promised,

then what hope do we have of taking on bigger issues? Small changes like this are the first and easiest steps in fighting climate change, and the fact that we are backing off of actions that would have a tangible and positive impact on our community, is disheartening. The Portland Youth Climate Council and other groups have been working to bring this issue to your attention for nearly a year. The City passed the 100% Renewable Energy Resolution in 2017. Removing industrial and commercial tree exemptions is part of holding ourselves accountable to it. Industry needs to be part of the solution when it comes to protecting trees. Given trees' ability to reduce urban heat islands, provide habitat, benefit our health, and mitigate climate change, we cannot afford to push off this decision any longer.

The Portland Youth Climate Council appreciates the opportunity the you gave us to speak before you today, and we appreciate your action on the large tree mitigation requirements. We respectfully urge you to take immediate action on the industrial and commercial tree exemptions, because kicking the can down the road helps no one, least of all youth.

Thank you.

From: Katharine Salzmann <katharinesalzmann@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2019 2:17 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Renew the "big tree amendment" and

Dear City Commissioners,

I urge you to vote to renew the "big tree amendment" and remove the "sunset" (expiration) date on the amendment. Turn the amendment into permanent tree code.

I urge you to immediately take a vote on removing the exemptions that currently exist in the tree code for industrial and commercial properties. Industrial and commercial properties should be held to the same tree codes and legal standards as other property types. I'm urging you to hold this vote - and to vote in favor of removing the exemptions for industrial and commercial properties that currently exist. This is an equity issue for the many of our neighbors in low income neighborhoods who live near industrial/commercial zones, and are on the front line of increasing urban heat zones and other effects of climate change.

I urge you to implement an immediate comprehensive review of the Title 11 tree code to start now and be finished by the end of 2020. Those reviewing and making recommendations on the code update should include not just the Bureau of Parks, and the Bureau of Development Services - but it should also include the Urban Forestry Commission, and the Bureau of Environmental Services' input and recommendations.

☆☆☆☆ And finally, we must figure out how to properly fund our Urban Forestry program. Revising the tree code will be meaningless if City Council doesn't properly fund Urban Forestry. The City's Urban Forester said "Urban Forestry is insufficiently staffed to fully implement and enforce the city's tree regulations. For example, each year about 2,000 trees required to be planted as conditions of permits (such as a permit for removing a street tree) are not; UF has no code compliance program funding." In the past, Parks could not (or wasn't willing to) fully fund Urban Forestry. Its time to consider moving Urban Forestry to a Bureau that is securely funded by taxpayers - by moving it into the Bureau of Environmental Services' portfolio. Our urban canopy manages

and retains stormwater, keeps our rivers cleaner by reducing runoff and protects public health by cleaning our water, sequestering carbon and providing oxygen. Trees accomplish 3 of the 4 points stated as the mission of BES. The Bureau of Development Services has repeatedly failed - for years - to properly attend to, prioritize and manage our tree codes. Parks only has UF in their portfolio because many years ago, our Parks Dept. grew all of our city's street trees - that program ended decades ago. The Bureau of Environmental Services should be the professionals managing and funding our trees - its time to move Urban Forestry and Title 11 tree code management into their well-funded portfolio and into their environmentally-minded hands.

Sincerely,
Katharine Salzmann
Southeast Portland

Sent from my iPad

Moore-Love, Karla

From: TERESA MCGRATH <bone1953@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2019 12:15 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: trees

please help the tree code and remove exemptions that will spell their demise

you would think portland would value their trees more, while boasting about climate change and being green

the tree code is a joke, and needs to be stronger...

thx

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Aaron Kuehn <aaron@aarline.info>
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2019 10:36 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Protect Big Trees in our city - They take a REALLY long time to grow

To the Mayor and Commissioners:

Please remove exemptions for Title 11 to ensure that industrial and commercial properties be held to the same tree preservation and density standards as everyone else in the city.

As a resident of the Sellwood-Moreland neighborhood, I'm aware that the current exemptions would have a significant effect on Moreland Woods, a two-acre property just east of Oaks Bottom Wildlife Preserve at 14th Avenue, with more than 20 mature Douglas-firs. These beautiful trees, some of which are nearly 80 years old, currently have limited protections under the law.

I call on Council to remove the exemptions for protecting and mitigating for trees on industrial and commercial lands, which are often located in sensitive environmental areas and near low-income neighborhoods. Protecting these trees is a matter of both environmental protection and environmental justice.

Portland's urban tree canopy is an essential tool to fight the impact of climate change. Our city needs to lead the way towards improving community health and landscape resilience; industrial and commercial land owners should not be exempt.

Please **vote to extend and strengthen big tree protections**. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Aaron Kuehn

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Piper Wyrick <prwyrick24@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2019 10:19 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Cc: Diaz, Samuel
Subject: Testimony for the the City Council meeting today on Portland's Tree Code (Title 11)

On the vote to extend the sunset clause in Title 11 to five years.



Piper Wyrick's Dec 12 2019 Tree Code testimony

Thinking of all that trees meant to me as a child, growing up in a working class neighborhood of Brooklyn, NY., We would play marbles in their shade, use them in Hide and Seek and Tag, snowball fights, throw the 'itchy ball' fruits from sycamores and gums at each other..experience the wildlife they harboured...birds and their songs, the squirrels they brought to my apartment fire escape, ..down to the worms that would wriggle out of the tree wells after a heavy warm rain. I marvelled at the size and softness of catalpa leaves and watched the helicopter-like maple seeds float down to the ground..where we would pick them up..make twirl in the air or peel them and stick them on our noses..like tiny rhinoceros horns. **They were a gift.**

Harper Lee the author of "To Kill a Mockingbird" said.."Have you ever found the whole world in the branches of a Chinaberry tree?..I have".

At a time when Nature and our Earth needs saviors and more youth connected to the Earth...the best we can do is to protect our trees..I was fortunate.....**this should be a Birthright of all youth..independent of wealth or lack of..**

I support removing the sunset for and strengthening the existing Title 11 protections for trees in development situations. These are in the PSC and Urban Tree Commission recommendations. If we fail to do so we might soon need to rename East Portland..'Stumptown'. **A review should be completed within 6 months. I am loathe to wait till after our elections.**

It is clear to me and many others that trees do not enjoy the priority they should. If they did, we would not be here at the 11th hour talking about continuing these meager protections. They only monetize trees. I would go further and take away the exemptions for lots under 5000 sq. ft., a major tree killer. Developers take a large lot, divide it and are exempted fees on removing the trees. **I would increase the 'fees in lieu of preservation' markedly on lots to be for used multiple units as a means to preserve the trees present. The City has had 3 1/2 years to fulfill its word to study and revisit these issues and failed! It doesn't make sense that this should even be under BDS. They have no interest, other than a conflict of interest, in maintaining our canopy. Not that they are bad people. It just seems to be at cross purposes. Perhaps BES would be a better fit. Parks and Recreation would be a better fit as well, but is unfortunately poorly funded. Any effort to review the present code needs adequate funding. In Brooklyn we said.."put your money where your mouth is".**

If trees are to be a priority, then show it by not approving RIP till after tree protections, as they apply to RIP condoned duplexes, triplexes, quads, are significantly improved.

Facts:

We are loosing trees to climate change. Summer of '18 had over 30 days above 90. Due to high overnight lows even this summer was one of our warmer summers. Last water year was 75% of normal and this year we are in much worse shape. **This makes each mature tree more valuable, for providing habitat, shade/cooling, noise reduction, retaining stormwater/helping our rivers, increasing the well being of citizens.** Even Christmas tree farmers and Timberland owners are seeing the losses.

Trees are a social equity issue. The wealthy areas of town have much more mature canopy and enjoy the benefits. Take a walk around Ainsworth school in the 'well heeled' Portland Heights on a 95 degree day. Then do the same on SE 82nd or 122nd. Portland leaders talk about walkable

neighborhoods, It's in the Comprehensive plan. But Portland doesn't deliver the goods to its poorer citizens. These are the same areas being targeted for development. Portland's Eastside is woefully deficient of tree Canopy as compared to the Westside. L.A. has a higher percentage of Canopy than our City!

You do not get to be a mature, large form tree if you are allowed to be cut when smaller. Some species of trees can be very beneficial before ever reaching the magic 36 inch diameter to trigger the higher fees that might save them. Is a 30 inch diameter tree of the same height really one-fourth as valuable as one of 36? This distinction seems arbitrary and aimed at appeasing folks who got upset over developers removing large trees. The City tossed tree advocates a 'bone'. Forgot about it for 3 and 1/2 years. And one tree after another continued to fall.

Our present system of charging a developer a 'fee in lieu of preservation' and planting saplings with those monies, does not reflect reality. This mitigation is a poor trade off. It's a hoax. It merely monetizes trees. What's next..putting a price tag on a sunrise? This is as if I took your three bedroom apartment, remove those three rooms, and give you a closet to live in. That closet will be increased incrementally to the size of one of your old rooms in 30 or 40 yrs. The other rooms didn't even qualify. Some deal! Mitigation omits many trees and the passage of time needed for those saplings to mature to replace the original tree. Will those saplings even survive our hotter summers, drier winters? Twenty, thirty, years of benefits..lost. We don't get to ignore the passage of time and our tree policy shouldn't either. I heard recently that many of these 'mitigation' saplings are not even being planted due to lack of funds? Does anyone even track their survival?

Many of the lands to be developed commercially, industrially are near or adjacent to valuable environmental areas or near low income neighbors. They become ugly 'heat islands'. They are a blight.

RIP and HB2001, by allowing more duplexes, triplexes and quads, may make it easier for developers to defray the fees in lieu of preservation , because those costs could be spread among more units.

What I have pieced together is that Homebuilders feel blindsided by the proposals from the Commissions and have taken their moneyed concerns to the Mayor. My take. They just took it for granted that they would continue to have their way. That's the way it's been. Mayor Hales was at their helm before becoming Mayor. Why would it change. They give to political campaigns. They have money, clout. Trees are just a commodity. They say these changes were requested without any public conversation and despite staff protestation. They should save their bombast. These bodies acted correctly and within their authority. Hey, for that matter, how about tossing the RIP proposal, it almost failed in the PSC vote. It was far more contentious. Does outreach ever reach every Portlander?

I see no need for a 'stake' holders meeting. After watching the RIP committee, the State Forestry Board, the Fish and Wildlife Commission, I have seen how easily money and power trumps science and the public interest. It's too easy to tip the scales by the person making appointments.

What we need is the POLITICAL WILL to speak up for trees.

I can't talk about trees in Development situations and not notice the 800 lb. Gorilla in the room. The

promise of 'Affordable' Housing.

RIP and HB2001 are ill-conceived because they have no provisions regarding affordability but rely instead on the largesse/charity of builders/developers/landlords to pass on the savings brought about by having more units on the same parcel of land to tenants or buyers. What a joke! As if RIP and HB2001 are a remedy for greed. The same as asking Pharmaceutical Companies to police themselves. When Inclusionary requirements for affordable housing were put in place for builds with over 20 units, some developers, simply built two complexes with 19 each. Yeah, I'll trust them..

At the last mtg a representative from the Homebuilders said we are in a housing crises. This is false, we have an 'affordable' houses crises. There are vacant units. They push for the idea of building more and a reliance on simplistic 'supply and demand' thinking.

I see flaws in thinking that building more, will lower prices. For that to work well you need a fixed demand, not a burgeoning, unending demand. Unless you are willing to kill Portland as we know and love it. It needed to be a closed system, not an open ended one. It is not simple 'supply and demand'. With apples for instance, one can chose to get them from elsewhere, causing competition, and if there is no price fixing, lowering prices. But, there is only one Portland. Secondly, and more importantly, one can decide not to eat apples, lowering demand and pricing. But, everyone needs housing..that 'choice' is off the table. Many are forced into doing without.

There are growing numbers of wealthy in Oregon and Portland Builders and owners of rentals will charge as much as they can get and build what and where the rich wish.

Then there is the role of Private equity, the 'Financialization of Housing' by hedgefunds, Blackstone etc. and their part in the creation of a housing nightmare. I urge you to listen to the following podcast. One of the speakers is Leilani Farha, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing. 'A rapporteur' is a person appointed by an organization to report on the proceedings of its meetings. Financialization seems play a role in the lack of affordable housing and gentrification in Portland and worldwide. I have seen spreadsheets. Do your own research. Denmark is considering legislation outlawing investor speculation.

Prices may stabilize. Simply because Portland's growth is slowing and there are other destination 'hot spots'. Places where investments have a better yield. Perhaps the bloom is off our rose.

The real societal issues are low wages and the growing disparity between rich and poor. For every study that loves upzoning there are others they say it won't help and will just continue to cause displacement. When even a modest attempt to actually put 'affordability requirements' into HB2001 was voted down, that spoke volumes to me. Even a proponent of the much touted Minneapolis upzoning has said "We've oversold the benefits of doing this". Upzoning is a dull tool. It's not an answer and mandating it on a Statewide level was reckless and turned citizens off to being involved locally, harming Democracy.

Robert B. Bernstein/ Laura Webb
SE Portland

Please listen to this podcast:

[https://dezwijger.nl/magazine/podcast-54-leilani-farha-fredrik-gertten?](https://dezwijger.nl/magazine/podcast-54-leilani-farha-fredrik-gertten?fbclid=IwAR0tYFBG9nWsVCeEA5-Rml6XZETMG_nO94pdzFXxDDOdedfYwxDhLnnFrOQ)

[fbclid=IwAR0tYFBG9nWsVCeEA5-Rml6XZETMG_nO94pdzFXxDDOdedfYwxDhLnnFrOQ](https://dezwijger.nl/magazine/podcast-54-leilani-farha-fredrik-gertten?fbclid=IwAR0tYFBG9nWsVCeEA5-Rml6XZETMG_nO94pdzFXxDDOdedfYwxDhLnnFrOQ)

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Greg Snider <gregwsnider@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2019 3:57 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Re: Tree Code Testimony 12.12.19
Attachments: Portland_Tree_Code_Testimony_12.12.19.pdf

Sorry about that. Attached is a pdf.

On Thu, Dec 12, 2019 at 3:50 PM Council Clerk – Testimony <CCTestimony@portlandoregon.gov> wrote:

Greg – I was not able to open the attachment. It's not clear what kind of file it is, word document, pdf, other? Will you please resend in a recognized file format?

Thanks,

Keelan McClymont

Assistant Council Clerk | City of Portland

(503) 823-4085

she/her pronouns

From: Greg Snider <gregwsnider@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2019 3:30 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony <CCTestimony@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: Tree Code Testimony 12.12.19

Hello,

I would please like to add the attached document to the official testimony regarding tree code that is currently being discussed and voted on in Portland City Council.

could you please distribute e this document to the Mayor and Commissioners as well?

189795

Thank you,

Greg Snider

1148 SE 50th Ave.

Portland, OR 97215

(503) 853-6957

12/12/19

Dear Mayor and Commissioners,

I'm testifying today to urge you to **vote yes** to amend Trees In Development Situations Code to extend the sunset date for certain tree preservation regulations in development situations on private property.

I am also urging you to vote to extend these regulations to commercial and industrial sites.

However - at the hearing on Nov. 18, 2019, I was very surprised and disappointed to learn that since the emergency, temporary regulations went into place in 2016, absolutely **nothing** has been done to up-date and create a promised comprehensive tree code.

My fear is that with the extension and passing of the current tree code, it will be assumed that our urban canopy crisis is "fixed" and no further steps will be taken to create a comprehensive, real working tree code.

I have studied the most recent Urban Forestry Tree Planting Compliance Report and found that the current system is weakly enforced and as of 2016, failing on most levels. There are no statistics available past 2016, making it impossible to determine the actual effectiveness of the current tree code.

We are in a climate emergency.

To quote Commissioner Fritz from last weeks meeting, "The world is on fire."

2019 will once again break the record for carbon emissions around the globe.

Our City government gives lip-service to this fact but continues with - "business as usual."

This is my fourth time appearing before City Council to argue for the right of developers to continue to cut mature trees for a price. This is not tree protection, this is a revenue stream. The current code does little-to-nothing to prevent mature trees from being destroyed. It is a "pay to cut" system

that values developers and money over the urban canopy. Last week I read in the SE Examiner that city planners are considering increasing the number of allowable units on a single lot to six. If the choice is to pay \$20,000 to cut down a mature tree vs. the hundreds of thousands of dollars to be made by adding more units to a lot - developers will default to profit. The idea that mitigation by replacing a mature tree with a whippet as an effective compensation for environmental loss is an act of science denial.

Tree code is currently overseen by the Bureau of Development Services. They make money by charging people to cut mature trees. Like cap-and-trade, this is a system rigged to allow developers to cut down trees while the city profits. At best this is a conflict of interest. Now we are talking about giving BDS another 5 years to revise a tree code they have completely ignored for the past 3 years. Why would we do that? BDS obviously does not care about developing a working code. Tree code should be removed from the Bureau of Development and handed over to a more environmentally concerned bureau like the Bureau of Environmental Services and Urban Forestry should be given the resources to implement and enforce tree code.

In addition to extending the current tree code and making it apply to commercial and industrial sites, I want to ask City Council to promise to overhaul the current tree code within the next six months to bring it more in line with the climate realities our city and the planet are facing. This would require a realistic and scientific understanding that puts tree canopy over profits. No one who stands to profit financially by destroying our tree canopy should be involved in writing our tree code.

I'm asking our city government to step up to the climate crisis and do the minimal (and effective) act of protecting and increasing our urban canopy.

Thanks,

Greg Snider gregwsnider@gmail.com
1148 SE 50th Ave.
Portland, OR 97215
(503) 853-6957

Piper's Dec 5/12 2019 Tree Code testimony

My name is Piper Wyrick, and I am a member of the Portland Youth Climate Council. I haven't testified in a while, or been able to put as much of myself towards environmental justice work lately as I would like - I am also completing my first term at college and working. As a student, I find myself stressing about not only the school work and deadlines, but the finances of attending college -as well as the environment. However, last month I had a sort of realization: why am I spending so much energy stressing about balancing these things, college, work and money, when it doesn't matter how many loans I take out, if the climate, and life as we know it, will likely be falling apart around the time they are due? Why am I stressing about a minimum wage job when we have practically run out of time to act on climate, and are wasting the time we have left, giving into industry pressures, putting off votes, and avoiding the action necessary to take care of and save ourselves and the rest of the world. We do this because of established relationships, power, and roles, yet these things are transient and unimportant in the grand scheme of things. The climate and our planet are not, yet the importance and influence we give them now is creating inequality and harm. I know I must put all of myself, my energy, spirit, and yes my time money and other resources, to fighting climate change and inequality; and learning and growing in school to increase my ability to do so.

I am here today to request that you extend the protection for big trees indefinitely, or at least temporarily for five more years, and that you follow the Urban Forestry Commission's recommendation to decrease the size requirement for a large tree to 20" diameter. If you extend it only a few years, you must ensure that there will be a follow up process and funding to do the research to conclusively extend it indefinitely. The importance of trees doesn't just disappear with the passage of a certain date, and these larger trees are exactly the ones we must focus on protecting in the last years before what will essentially be climate apocalypse. Larger trees hold more carbon, produce more oxygen, improve air quality, create more shade and healthy soil, reduce heat islands, and offer a myriad of other ecological and climate benefits. These ecological and climate benefits translate into benefits for the people of this city - for us.

It is also crucial that you get rid of the Industrial and Commercial Zoning Exemption, and do so by voting as soon as possible. Six months to a year is way too long - how many trees will get cut down in that time frame by those that have the capacity to do so on a large scale, have no consequences, and know that they have a deadline (and one that is very workable, not too short for them to take action)? Corporations shouldn't be considered individuals, but they also shouldn't be granted more ease and exemptions with the law than individuals. So many trees are cut down because it is free for industries and corporations to do so. This is in stark contrast to the process for citizens who want to cut down trees, they must pay a large fine. In addition, a lot of Portland's industry is on the river, resulting in fewer trees along the water, where they are especially needed for riparian zones and water life. Corporations simply cause the most damage and face the least amount of regulation and repercussions.

We must extend the protection for big trees indefinitely and get rid of the Industrial and Commercial Zoning Exemption to help ensure that that our city and world will be more resilient in the face of climate change, and a more equitable place for us who live here.

From: Sadie Gordon <borageblossoms@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2019 9:49 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Please Protect Our Trees!

Dear Local Government

Trees mean everything to me. And as climate disasters loom, the importance of trees increases, not to mention their beauty and nobility that brings us to our hearts! To that end I direct you, my local servants, the move Urban Forestry and Title 11 tree code to the Bureau of Environmental Services. Please vote this change in today!

Thank you,
Sadie Scabarozi
1520 SE 87th Ave
97216

Sent from my iPad

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Yocom, Jennifer <Jennifer.Yocom@nwnatural.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2019 9:14 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Cc: Carlson, Nina E.
Subject: REPLACEMENT TESTIMONY FROM NWN: Accept 2017-19 Biennial Report to Portland City Council on 100 Percent Renewable Energy Resolution No. 37289
Attachments: REPLACEMENTCityofPortland100PercentRenewable.pdf
Importance: High

Please accept this letter as a replacement to the letter submitted yesterday afternoon by Nina Carlson (of NW Natural).

RE: Accept 2017-19 Biennial Report to Portland City Council on 100 Percent Renewable Energy Resolution No. 37289

In consultation with BES, we found an error in our previously submitted letter—the attached is now corrected to say the “City’s largest climate action infrastructure project” – with “infrastructure” being the added word.

We apologize for the error and would appreciate confirmation of receipt of this replacement if possible. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
Jennifer

Jennifer Yocom
NW Natural – Local Government Affairs Manager
w: 503.220.2371 m: 503.459.1292 | nwnatural.com





Mayor Ted Wheeler
Commissioner Chloe Eudaly
Commissioner Nick Fish
Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty

December 12, 2019

RE: Accept 2017-19 Biennial Report to Portland City Council on 100 Percent Renewable Energy Resolution No. 37289

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Portland City Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter as additional testimony into the record for the Biennial Report to City Council on 100 Percent Renewable Energy.

As one of the longest-standing companies in the region, NW Natural has been an essential part of how our community has evolved over the last 160 years. As we look toward the future in the Pacific Northwest, our natural gas system is playing a critical role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We are honored to partner with you in turning toward a renewable energy future, one where Portland and Oregon are **leading the way and leaving no one behind**.

Currently, NW Natural delivers a vast amount of energy for a modest carbon footprint. We deliver more energy in Oregon than any other utility, yet the use of **natural gas in our customers' homes and commercial businesses makes up just 5% of Oregon's annual emissions**.¹ But our vision and mission for the future is aligned with yours—to reduce emissions even more—and we are already moving forward.

Each year, significant greenhouse gas emissions from Oregon's dairies, landfills and the like are released into the atmosphere. Together, we can capture this waste and create **renewable natural gas** in Oregon. A study by Oregon's Department of Energy shows our state's technical potential for renewable natural gas to be 48 billion cubic feet (bcf), enough to supply every home using natural gas in Oregon today with a local and renewable energy source.²

Portland is already leading the way. Through our partnership at the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant, you've made Portland a national leader on this newest renewable, renewable natural gas. Our thanks to the entire Portland City Council for your partnership and leadership on this project—the City's largest climate action infrastructure project to date—with special thanks to Commissioner Nick Fish and BES.

In September, led by Senator Michael Dembrow with City support, we stood with Governor Kate Brown to commemorate the signing of SB 98 – the first and most aggressive law of its kind in the country – to establish a clear direction for how we will take waste from food, animals, wood and wastewater that would otherwise result in emissions and turn it into renewable natural gas. SB 98 also includes cutting edge breakthroughs like renewable hydrogen which will allow us to take excess wind, solar, and hydro and store it in the natural gas system for when we need it most.

Renewable natural gas and renewable hydrogen are newer than wind and solar, but offer similar carbon reduction benefits and because they can be stored in our pipeline system, they leverage the existing energy system already in place. NW Natural has one of the most modern, tight systems in the county and we are uniquely positioned to bring waste to market as renewables—SB 98 is the groundbreaking law that positions us to do this faster than any other utility in the U.S.

We want to be the first. Developing both renewable natural gas and renewable hydrogen provides a potential path to 100% renewables in the pipeline system. While we have work to do, there's no technical barrier in our way—so that's our vision and our mission going forward.

We can create a model for the rest of the country. The challenge is doing it as quickly and affordably as possible. We are up to the challenge.

Which brings us to our final point: **leave no one behind.** Every day, we provide warmth and comfort to more than 2 million people. With nearly one-third of our customers being low income, we remain focused on providing affordable, reliable energy, and will continue strengthening our important programs like bill assistance, low-income weatherization, and energy efficiency.

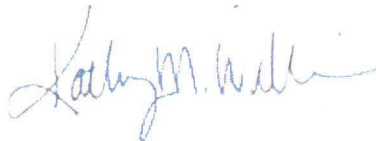
Adding renewables into our pipeline, combined with encouraging energy efficiency and wide adoption of our carbon-offset program will yield the fastest and most affordable results for our communities and the climate.

We look forward to working alongside our electricity partners, our community, and the City of Portland—learning and building on each other's successes—leading the way and leaving no one behind. Thank you.

Sincerely,



David H. Anderson
President & CEO



Kathryn Williams
VP of Public Affairs



Bill Edmonds
Director of Environmental
Management &
Sustainability

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Suzanne Sherman <suzanne@fatcathatsandsacks.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2019 1:53 AM
To: Wheeler, Mayor; Commissioner Fish; Commissioner Hardesty; Commissioner Fritz; Commissioner Eudaly; Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Please Continue Title 11 protections for our City's Trees

Good Day,

I'm writing in support of continuing protections in Title 11 for our City's large and mature trees and am asking that you turn the "big tree amendment" into permanent tree code. I also ask that you take steps to remove exemptions from Title 11 to ensure that industrial and commercial properties are held to the same tree protection and planting standards as everyone else in the City. Commercial development going on in Portland has wiped out way too many of our mature trees already due to these exemptions. Please hold developers to the same standards as everyone else.

Please implement an immediate comprehensive review of the Title 11 tree code to start now and be finished by the end of 2020. Those reviewing and making recommendations on the code update should include not just the Bureau of Parks and the Bureau of Development Services but it should also include the Urban Forestry Commission and the Bureau of Environmental Services.

And finally revising the tree code will be meaningless if City Council doesn't properly fund Urban Forestry. Please find a way to properly fund and staff Urban Forestry so they can properly implement the tree code and protect our trees. Our urban tree canopy is essential to offset climate change impact and it provides food, shelter and beauty for all of us living in the city including our urban wildlife.

Thank you,
Suzanne Sherman
Mt Tabor Resident

Sent from my iPad

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Irene T <kittenclawed@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 10:16 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony; Fritz, Amanda; Commissioner Hardesty; Commissioner Eudaly; Commissioner Fish; Wheeler, Mayor
Subject: Vote for our urban trees not for corporate interests

December 11, 2019

Dear City Council Members and Mayor Wheeler,

I am urging you to vote for Portland's trees. Our urban canopy is not only an icon of our city, but a critical, necessary factor in fighting climate change. We are past a tipping point, the time is now, and we must say "no" to greed and corporate disregard for our environment and health. At tomorrow's tree code hearing, I urge you to represent the people of Portland by voting for the following:

1. Renew the "big tree amendment" and remove the "sunset" (expiration) date on the amendment. Turn the amendment into permanent tree code.
2. Immediately take a vote on removing the exemptions that currently exist in the tree code for industrial and commercial properties. Industrial and commercial properties should be held to the same tree codes and legal standards as other property types. I'm urging you to hold this vote - and to vote in favor of removing the exemptions for industrial and commercial properties that currently exist. This is an equity issue for the many of our neighbors in low income neighborhoods who live near industrial/commercial zones, and are on the front line of increasing urban heat zones and other effects of climate change.
3. Implement an immediate comprehensive review of the Title 11 tree code to start now and be finished by the end of 2020. Those reviewing and making recommendations on the code update should include not just the Bureau of Parks, and the Bureau of Development Services - but it should also include the Urban Forestry Commission, and the Bureau of Environmental Services' input and recommendations.
4. Figure out how to properly fund our Urban Forestry program. Revising the tree code will be meaningless if City Council doesn't properly fund Urban Forestry. The City's Urban Forester said "Urban Forestry is insufficiently staffed to fully implement and enforce the city's tree regulations. For example, each year about 2,000 trees required to be planted as conditions of permits (such as a permit for removing a street tree) are not; UF has no code compliance program funding." In the past, Parks could not (or wasn't willing to) fully fund Urban Forestry. Its time to consider moving Urban Forestry to a Bureau that is securely funded by taxpayers - by moving it into the Bureau of Environmental Services' portfolio. Our urban canopy manages and retains stormwater, keeps our rivers cleaner by reducing runoff and protects public health by cleaning our water, sequestering carbon and providing oxygen. Trees accomplish 3 of the 4 points stated as the mission of BES. The Bureau of Development Services has repeatedly failed - for years - to properly attend to, prioritize and manage our tree codes. Parks only has UF in their portfolio because many years ago, our Parks

Dept. grew all of our city's street trees - that program ended decades ago. The Bureau of Environmental Services should be the professionals managing and funding our trees - its time to move Urban Forestry and Title 11 tree code management into their well-funded portfolio and into their environmentally-minded hands.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,
Irene Hess

Moore-Love, Karla

From: greenportland <greenportland@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 3:43 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: tree code

rRemove big tree wording. End exboration date. Properly fund the Urban Forestry group. Stop cutting down big trees in Portland. Stop giving developers the right to clear cut Portland. Portland has the highest cancer and asthma rates in the country. Don't make things worse by allowing developers in commercial and industrial zones and housing zones to destroy trees.

Keep Portland green.Save Trees!

Thanks in advance

Robert Greene

6535 n fenwick ave

Pdx 97217

208 310 3650

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Carlson, Nina E. <Nina.Carlson@nwnatural.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 3:22 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Testimony for Portland City Council Meeting 12/12 100% Renewable Report
Attachments: Letter to Portland City Council 121219.pdf

Please accept this letter into the record.

Nina Carlson
NW Natural, Government Affairs
nina.carlson@nwnatural.com
o: 503 721-2474 c: 503 312-0683



Mayor Ted Wheeler
Commissioner Chloe Eudaly
Commissioner Nick Fish
Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty

December 12, 2019

RE: Accept 2017-19 Biennial Report to Portland City Council on 100 Percent Renewable Energy Resolution No. 37289

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Portland City Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter as additional testimony into the record for the Biennial Report to City Council on 100 Percent Renewable Energy.

As one of the longest-standing companies in the region, NW Natural has been an essential part of how our community has evolved over the last 160 years. As we look toward the future in the Pacific Northwest, our natural gas system is playing a critical role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We are honored to partner with you in turning toward a renewable energy future, one where Portland and Oregon are **leading the way and leaving no one behind**.

Currently, NW Natural delivers a vast amount of energy for a modest carbon footprint. We deliver more energy in Oregon than any other utility, yet the use of **natural gas in our customers' homes and commercial businesses makes up just 5% of Oregon's annual emissions**.¹ But our vision and mission for the future is aligned with yours—to reduce emissions even more—and we are already moving forward.

Each year, significant greenhouse gas emissions from Oregon's dairies, landfills and the like are released into the atmosphere. Together, we can capture this waste and create **renewable natural gas** in Oregon. A study by Oregon's Department of Energy shows our state's technical potential for renewable natural gas to be 48 billion cubic feet (bcf), enough to supply every home using natural gas in Oregon today with a local and renewable energy source.²

Portland is already leading the way. Through our partnership at the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant, you've made Portland a national leader on this newest renewable, renewable natural gas. Our thanks to the entire Portland City Council for your partnership and leadership on this project—the City's largest climate action infrastructure project to date—with special thanks to Commissioner Nick Fish and BES.

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Renewable natural gas and renewable hydrogen are newer than wind and solar, but offer similar carbon reduction benefits and because they can be stored in our pipeline system, they leverage the existing energy system already in place. NW Natural has one of the most modern, tight systems in the county and we are uniquely positioned to bring waste to market as renewables—SB 98 is the groundbreaking law that positions us to do this faster than any other utility in the U.S.

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We can create a model for the rest of the country. The challenge is doing it as quickly and affordably as possible. We are up to the challenge.

Which brings us to our final point: **leave no one behind.** Every day, we provide warmth and comfort to more than 2 million people. With nearly one-third of our customers being low income, we remain focused on providing affordable, reliable energy, and will continue strengthening our important programs like bill assistance, low-income weatherization, and energy efficiency.

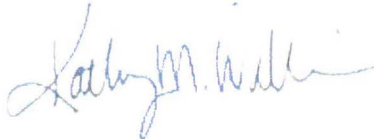
Adding renewables into our pipeline, combined with encouraging energy efficiency and wide adoption of our carbon-offset program will yield the fastest and most affordable results for our communities and the climate.

We look forward to working alongside our electricity partners, our community, and the City of Portland—learning and building on each other's successes—leading the way and leaving no one behind. Thank you.

Sincerely,



David H. Anderson
President & CEO



Kathryn Williams
VP of Public Affairs



Bill Edmonds
Director of Environmental
Management &
Sustainability

¹ Source: Oregon DEQ In Boundary GHG Inventory 2015 data

² Source: "Biogas and Renewable Natural Gas Inventory SB 337 (2017)," 2018. www.oregon.gov/energy

From: Dawn Smallman <dawnsman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 1:21 PM
To: Commissioner Eudaly; Commissioner Hardesty; Commissioner Fritz; Wheeler, Mayor; Commissioner Fish; Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: comments on Thurs. City Council agenda item: Amend Trees In Development Situations Code to extend sunset date for certain tree preservation regulations in development situations on private property (Second Reading Agenda 1126; introduced by Mayor Wheel...

Dear Mayor and City Commissioners,

In advance of Thursday's council vote regarding our urban trees and tree canopy:

1. I urge you to vote to renew the "big tree amendment" and remove the "sunset" (expiration) date on the amendment. Turn the amendment into permanent tree code.
2. I encourage you to immediately take a vote on removing the exemptions that currently exist in the tree code for industrial and commercial properties. Industrial and commercial properties should be held to the same tree codes and legal standards as other property types. I'm urging you to hold this vote - and to vote in favor of removing the exemptions for industrial and commercial properties that currently exist. This is an equity issue for the many of our neighbors in low income neighborhoods who live near industrial/commercial zones, and are on the front line of increasing urban heat zones and other effects of climate change.
3. I request that you implement an immediate comprehensive review of the Title 11 tree code to start now and be finished within 6 months. Those reviewing and making recommendations on the code update should include not just the Bureau of Parks, and the Bureau of Development Services - but it should also include the Urban Forestry Commission, and the Bureau of Environmental Services' input and recommendations.
4. I urge you to figure out how to properly fund our Urban Forestry program. Revising the tree code will be meaningless if City Council doesn't properly fund Urban Forestry. The City's Urban Forester said "Urban Forestry is insufficiently staffed to fully implement and enforce the city's tree regulations. For example, each year about 2,000 trees required to be planted as conditions of permits (such as a permit for removing a street tree) are not; UF has no code compliance program funding." In the past, Parks could not (or wasn't willing to) fully fund Urban Forestry. Its time to consider moving Urban Forestry to a Bureau that is securely funded by taxpayers - by moving it into the Bureau of Environmental Services' portfolio. Our urban canopy manages and retains stormwater, keeps our rivers cleaner by reducing runoff and protects public health by cleaning our water, sequestering carbon and providing oxygen. Trees accomplish 3 of the 4 points stated as the mission of BES. The Bureau of Development Services has repeatedly failed - for years - to properly attend to, prioritize and manage our tree codes. Parks only has UF in their portfolio because many years ago, our Parks Dept. grew all of our city's street trees - that program ended decades ago. The Bureau of Environmental Services should be the professionals managing and funding our trees - its time to move Urban Forestry and Title 11 tree code management into their well-funded portfolio and into their environmentally-minded hands.

Our trees' survival, care and future are in your hands - protecting them protects the health of living beings in our city and beyond. Science shows us we need our trees in order to survive and to help slow climate change.

"I am here to say, our **house is on fire**... I want you to **act** as you would in a crisis. I want you to **act as if our house is on fire**. Because it is." - Greta Thunberg

Dawn Smallman
Portland resident

189795

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Emily Polanshek <EmilyPolanshek@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 10:33 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Tree Code for 12/12/19
Attachments: Tree Code testimony 12.10.19.docx

To: Mayor Wheeler and Portland City Council
Re: Title 11, Tree Code
Date: 12-10-19

My name is Emily Polanshek. I'm a retired teacher, an active-duty grandmother and a passionate climate justice activist.

Something I've learned during my years of climate activism is that even as we work for larger systemic changes, we *MUST* act locally. One vital local action is to protect our trees through sound public policy.

For example, please extend Title 11's "Big Tree Amendment" before it sunsets at year's end, and improve tree protections in the coming years as you review the tree policies as a whole. That would be sound public policy. On the other hand, allowing commercial and industrial lands to remain exempt from Portland's Tree Code is not sound policy, don't you agree? We should require all local players to do their share in growing our urban canopy.

How can we not strengthen our tree policies, especially given the long-deferred environmental justice issue of industrial areas often being located adjacent to low income residents and communities of color? These are areas where we most need to increase – not decrease - our tree canopy to reduce temperatures and other climate impacts.

Please stand firm against pressure from developers, owners of industrial projects or any deep pockets more concerned with their financial gain than our future. They may argue that the jobs they provide are more important than any climate emergency they think is far in the future. I hope you are aware of the latest scientific data and know better. The costs of not addressing the climate crisis will be far greater than the expense of rapidly turning our economy towards sustainability.

We must continue to protect large trees in private developments **and** end the exemptions from tree preservation and density standards on commercial and industrial lands. It is critical that you follow through on both these things as demanded by the climate emergency already underway and sound public policy.

Thank you.

Emily Polanshek
3841 SW Canby St., Portland 97219
emilypolanshek@msn.com
(503) 545-1513

To: Mayor Wheeler and Portland City Council
Re: Title 11, Tree Code
Date: 12-10-19

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Thank you.

Emily Polanshek
3841 SW Canby St., Portland 97219
emilypolanshek@msn.com
(503) 545-1513

Moore-Love, Karla

From: P Z <miki_z@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 6:18 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Better Vision 20:20 needed for 2020 AD – Protection of Wilderness, Forests, Trees, Timberlands, Wooded Fields, Species which directly impact Global and Regional Climate, livability, health and future for us all

Dear Portland Mayor Wheeler and Vancouver Mayor McEnerny-Ogle:

I ask you to permanently protect the remaining Tree Cover within Portland and Vancouver cities! Permanently protect remaining public and private Forests, Woodlands, Wooded Fields and timberlands from development and clearcutting before they are lost and encourage other mayors, county commissioners, and governors to do the same. Cause they are all going to the wayside, and quickly -- and yet we need them more today than ever!

The greater half of Climate Change comes not from Fossil Fuel burning that everyone is focused on, but from deForestation that nobody talks about. The loss of trees are the direct cause of Global Warming, Extreme Weather, melting of Glaciers, rising Sea Level, Species Extinction, rising acidification of all Oceans that is killing Coral Reefs and Marine Life and threatens to kill all of It, polluted Waters and Air, and loss of oxygen. And so by refusing to permanently protect these precious and fragile Ecosystems – you directly cause deaths and suffering of your own countrymen and the incalculable loss of properties. Thus directly or indirectly, you destroy Earth and a future for all humankind.

Cities of the world are sinking (Miami, New York, London, Tokyo, Istanbul, Venice, etc.), as will Portland and Vancouver, because every possible Open Space is being filled with development, because Woodlands and Treed Areas are not protected, because Washington State doesn't regulate Plants, because Oregon only has 3 Wildlife Field Biologists looking after these Treasures, because Washington State only has 1 Field Botanist (DNR), etc. See ***Sinking Cities*** documentary by PBS. While you only think about developers and loggers and jobs, you're dropping the ball on the Big Picture. Wilderness, especially Treed Areas, have everything to do with this. Cities like Portland and Vancouver need to be innovators not losers – they need solid policies and practices that protect these Green Places permanently, laws they still don't have in place today, which I find incredible. If you are truly interested in “permanent” health of your own families and countrymen, and you don't care about other nations and Species, then you need to protect “permanently” these Ecosystems before they are lost. Not much remains as it is, just look at the Pacific Northwest map on Google.Earth and discover it for yourselves -- focus on the looming spread of gray asphalt and cement taking over the Green, our Lifeblood. And with your poor protection and loss of understanding and foresight, you *will* lose the electronic industry and other businesses that might otherwise be interested in coming to Washington and Oregon States, and be stuck with the dirty and dumb ones, and forced to import most if not all your food as England.

This is the consensus:

The Portland City Council is about to drop the ball (again) regarding protecting trees on industrial and commercial lands. In 2011, when Portland adopted its Tree Code (Title 11), Council caved to industry pressure and added a last-minute amendment to exempt commercial and industrial landowners from tree preservation and density standards. City Council was slated to consider rescinding these exemptions on Thursday December 5th but have again postponed making a decision. Developers could cut down a stand of trees and there is nothing in the code to hold them accountable.

We need a 20:20 vision for 2020 AD – Protect the remaining Wooded Fields, Woodlands, Forests, timberlands, Open Green Spaces, Wetlands, and other Wild Areas on private and public domain from DEVELOPMENT and CLEARCUTTING that have been sent to the wayside for centuries, practices that still haven't changed to this day despite the Planetary Crisis we face. This nation of USA desperately needs to cut the Urban Sprawl, and Portland, Gresham, Tigard, Beaverton, and Vancouver are no exceptions. It's just awful, very sad, and scary. There is no sense for sustainability, thus no sense or care for future generations. Why is Portland and Vancouver still building these flat 4 and 5 story buildings everywhere and out of wood instead of 10, 15, and 50 story buildings out of concrete and bricks, when Boston and New York City built 8-story high-rises back in 1865 and without Climate Change? Every time you build like that, with every such building, you are removing a Wooded Field, an Open Field, a Wetland, a Meadow, a farmland somewhere else and annihilating countless Species (God's Creation), local food source, livability, and health.

Climate Risk Tests Cities' Ability to Tell Developers 'No'

By Christopher Flavelle and John Schwartz The New York Times 11-20-2019

In Virginia Beach, the pressure for new homes collides with the rising toll of natural disasters.

The government should be telling developers what to do, not the other way around. If you are too afraid to stand up to developers destroying Earth for all of our sake, or you just don't get it, then you are not the mayors for us, nor for the Common Good of the Planet, then let somebody take your place that is not afraid and understands. The cities, counties, and states should be directing development for the Common Good not for private handouts given at private luncheons, for what the communities need, not for what the developers want.

Paul Raphael Zemanek

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Kaya Grumbles <kayagrumbles@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2019 2:48 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Tree Code Sunset Clause
Attachments: Sunset clause Kaya testimony.docx

Sent from my iPhone

KAYA

HI

My name is Kaya . My friend, Teja helped me write this testimony. We are 11th graders at Grant High School in North East Portland. While Grant was under construction we stayed at the Marshall campus down on 82nd and Powell. While we were at Marshall one of the biggest and most noticeable things around the area in comparison to Grant campus is the lack of trees. At Marshall there were few trees, the grounds had had little shade. It could be hot, and muggy. Students would leave the campus grounds as the bell rang. At Grant, however, students would stay on the school grounds after the bell rang because the school is surrounded by a park with shade, and trees that filtered the air around us.

Another difference between the two areas is the income and diversity of each area. There are often less trees in low income areas with a high diversity. A study done by Portland State University Urban Studies showed that there can be "as much as a 15- to 20-degree difference in higher income neighborhoods that are shaded with a denser tree canopy, such as Irvington on a hot day."

(source Street roots newspaper)

So looking at these trends why does it seem that the richer area is, the more access there is to trees, cooler temperatures and clean air?

This doesn't make sense.

This is a compelling reason to me on why the Sunset Clause, needs to be extended into a permanent clause. It is also why industry should NOT be exempt from paying the mitigation fees that will go to planting trees in place of the ones they have cut down.

We can't wait for any more years this exemption to go away, as the climate needs our help now. I want to grow up surrounded by nature because that is where I am happiest and I want my little brother and cousins to do the same. I want anyone to have this right no matter their income level or the color of their skin. This is why need you, the Portland City Council to protect our city and extend the Sunset Clause and remove the Industrial and commercial land exemptions from the Portland Tree Code.

Thank you

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Jane Hart Meyer <jane.hart.pdx@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2019 3:10 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Please protect our trees, even on industrial and commercial properties!

Hello, we support the Audobon Society's stand on tree protection:

- 1) Extend the sunset clause on the big tree amendments for five years or remove it altogether,
 - 2) Remove the exemptions from the tree code for commercial and industrial land either today or if additional process time is required, by the end of the first quarter of 2020, and
 - 3) Commit to funding a comprehensive update of Title 11 (Tree Code) in the 2021 budget cycle.
- Support for extending existing big tree protections in private development situations which will be approved at the same hearing.
 - Support council taking immediate steps to remove exemptions for Title 11 to ensure that industrial and commercial properties are held to the same tree preservation and density standards as everyone else in the City.
 - It is long past time for City Council to remove the exemptions for protecting and mitigating for trees on industrial and commercial lands.
 - These sites are often located in sensitive environmental areas (such as next to rivers and streams) and near low income neighborhoods. Protecting trees on these lands is a matter of both environmental protection and environmental justice.
 - Our urban tree canopy is an essential tool to fight climate change impacts and the entire City needs to play a role in improving community health and landscape resilience—industrial and commercial land owners should not be exempt.
 - Council had already delayed for far too long on this issue and it is doing significant damage to our environment and our most vulnerable neighborhoods.

Thanks,

Jane Hart Meyer and David Meyer

3550 SW Custer St.

Portland, 97219

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Anna Lyons-Roost <wellscottage@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2019 2:28 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Please Extend big Tree mitigation fees & eliminate exemptions to industrial commercial zones

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Portland City Council,

I support extending the big tree mitigation fees until 2050. I also support eliminating giving exemptions to industrial/commercial zones.

And I request that City Council eliminate the exemptions from the Title 11 Tree Density standards, also known as the tree planting requirements, which requires developers to plant trees on sites that do not meet tree canopy targets. The Tree Density standards are especially important in areas with high density/intensity development, like commercial, industrial, and employment zones where existing sites often have less tree canopy to start with, that are prone to urban heat island, and where a great deal of people live and work. These tree planting requirements are needed to help increase urban canopy, especially in tree-deficient areas, and to help meet Portland's tree canopy targets overall.

Thank you for your work for the city and your consideration of my concerns.

Anna Lyons-Roost,
829 NE Floral Pl, Portland, Or 97232, 503-236-8826,
Member Pacific Northwest Society of Jungian Analysts.

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Dawn Smallman <dawnsman@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2019 2:13 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Fwd: comments for today's City Council vote re: tree code

Dear City of Portland - please add my testimony below, emailed to the Mayor and Commissioners, to the official city record.

Thank you,
Dawn Smallman

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dawn Smallman** <dawnsman@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Dec 5, 2019 at 11:27 AM
Subject: comments for today's City Council vote re: tree code
To: Commissioner Hardesty <joann@portlandoregon.gov>, <Chloe@portlandoregon.gov>, Nick Fish <nick@portlandoregon.gov>, <MayorWheeler@portlandoregon.gov>

Dear Mayor and Commissioners,

I'm disappointed that Mayor Wheeler and Commissioner Fish have revoked the vote that Mayor Wheeler committed to the public he would do today concerning potentially lifting the Title 11 Tree Code exemptions for commercial and industrial properties. I'm further frustrated that I now hear there will be no opportunity for public testimony this afternoon on this issue and on today's vote regarding extending the "big tree amendments." I'm urging you to take these actions today when you vote:

- 1) Extend the sunset clause on the big tree amendments for five years or remove it altogether,
- 2) Remove the exemptions from the tree code for commercial and industrial land either today or if additional process time is required, by the end of the first quarter of 2020, and
- 3) Commit to funding a comprehensive update of Title 11 (Tree Code) in the 2021 budget cycle.

Regards,

Dawn Smallman

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Piper Wyrick <prwyrick24@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2019 1:54 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Testimony for City Council agenda item 1126, amending Title 11 Tree Code - Dec 5 2019

 Piper's Dec 5 2019 Tree Code testimony

Piper's Dec 5 2019 Tree Code testimony

My name is Piper Wyrick, and I am also a member of the Portland Youth Climate Council. I haven't testified in a while, or been able to put as much of myself towards environmental justice work lately as I would like; I am also completing my first term at college and working. As a student, I find myself stressing about not only the school work and deadlines, but the finances of attending college -as well as the environment. However, last month I had a sort of realization: why am I spending so much energy stressing about balancing these things, college, work and money, when it doesn't matter how many loans I take out, if the climate, and life as we know it, will likely be falling apart around the time they are due? Why am I stressing about a minimum wage job when we have practically run out of time to act on climate, and are wasting the time we have left, giving into industry pressures, putting off votes, and avoiding the action necessary to take care of and save ourselves and the rest of the world. We do this because of established relationships, power, and roles, yet these things are transient and unimportant in the grand scheme of things, the climate and our planet are not, yet the importance and influence we give them now is creating inequality and harm. I know I must put all of myself, my energy, spirit, and yes my time money and other resources, to fighting climate change and inequality; and learning and growing in school to increase my ability to do so.

I am here today to request that you extend the protection for big trees indefinitely. If you extend it only a few years, you must ensure that there will be a follow up process and funding to do the research to conclusively extend it indefinitely. The importance of trees doesn't just disappear with the passage of a certain date, and these larger trees are exactly the ones we must focus on protecting in the last years before what will essentially be climate apocalypse. Larger trees hold more carbon, produce more oxygen, improve air quality, create more shade and healthy soil, reduce heat islands, and offer a myriad of other ecological and climate benefits. These ecological and climate benefits translate into benefits for the people of this city - for us.

It is also crucial that you get rid of the Industrial and Commercial Zoning Exemption, and do so by voting as soon as possible. Corporations shouldn't be considered individuals, but they also shouldn't be granted more ease and exemptions with the law than individuals. So many trees are cut down because it is free for industries and corporations to do so. This is in stark contrast to the process for citizens who want to cut down trees, They must pay a large fine. In addition, a lot of Portland's industry is on the river, resulting in fewer trees along the water, where they are especially needed for riparian zones and water life.

We must extend the protection for big trees indefinitely and get rid of the Industrial and Commercial Zoning Exemption to help ensure that that our city and world will be more resilient in the face of climate change, and a more equitable place for us who live here.

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Tim Rhys <tim@moviemaker.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2019 1:44 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Fwd: Testimony on Protecting Trees (for 12/5/19 Portland City Council Meeting)

Public Testimony re. Tree Protection, Portland City Council Meeting 12/5/19

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Council Members,

My family and I have owned a home in Mt. Tabor for the past six years, where my wife runs a preschool and I work as a freelance editor and filmmaker. One of the reasons we moved to Portland is the city's reputation as a compassionate, progressive place that cares about its less fortunate citizens and about its natural environment. We started reading our neighborhood newspaper (the Southside Examiner) even before we moved here, and I was particularly impressed with the concern that average people in Portland have for the city's tree canopy.

Our home is an historic Victorian on the National Register of Historic Places, and on a map of the area from 1890, when our house was built, one can clearly see two trees that flank the property. These trees, "sister" Giant Sequoias, are also referenced in the physical description of our house.

In the 1980s a neighbor's lot was subdivided and a house was built next door to ours, and right next to the sequoia to the east. Two summers ago, the owner of that house suddenly became convinced that the tree's root system was a problem for his slab garage floor, and he unceremoniously had this beautiful, historic, landmark tree--this community asset responsible for cleaning the air, cooling it in summer, providing habitat for wild creatures, etc., etc., cut down and removed. It happened in a day and a half... this tree with a girth of 36 feet that had stood there for two hundred years, was completely gone.

How could my neighbors do this? Well, it was all perfectly legal. The tree was within 10 feet of his structure, so he didn't even need prior approval.

This was startling to me, and flew in the face of what I believed was possible in Portland. I soon became aware that our tree "protection" laws are ridiculously flimsy and skew in favor of individual developers and landowners and not community at large.

Large trees need protection. They need far greater protection than the laws currently in place afford them. And although it will not certainly save landmark trees like the giant sister next door to my house, I urge the council to do the bare minimum it can do today and:

- 1) Remove the so-called "sunset clause" on big tree amendments.
- 2) Remove the exemptions from the tree code for commercial and industrial land either today or if additional process time is required, by the end of the first quarter of 2020, and
- 3) Commit to funding a comprehensive update of Title 11 (Tree Code) in the 2021 budget cycle.

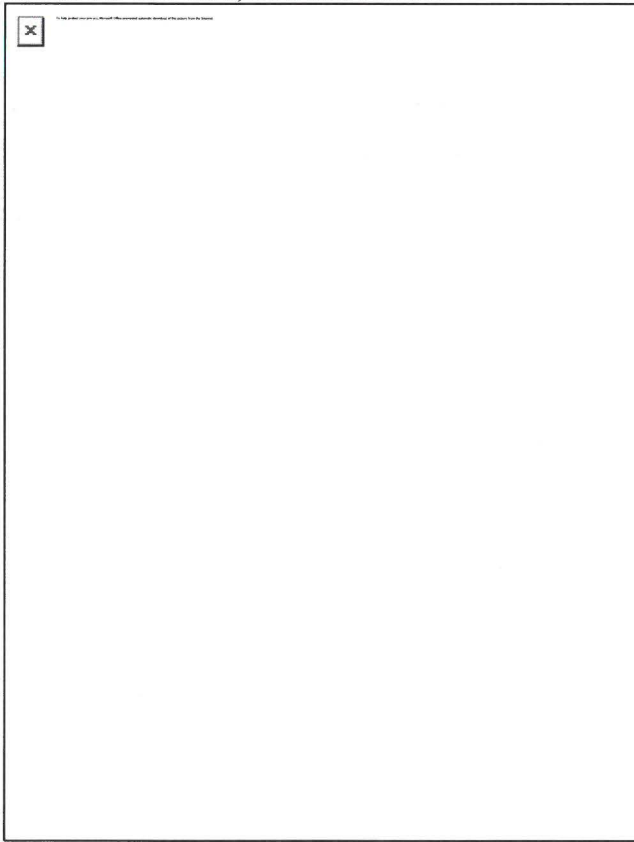
That's where to start. Making it illegal, period, to cut down significant trees (diameters of greater than 20 inches) without neighborhood approval (paying a fine is flat-out wrong) would be far better and more progressive.

Thank you for your time and attention and for doing the right thing for our children and the future of our city.

Warm regards,

Timothy E. Rhys (5830 SE Taylor St., Portland, OR 97215)

Timothy Rhys
Director, MovieMaker Production Services
Founder, Editor/Publisher Emeritus, MovieMaker Magazine
"The World's Bestselling Independent Movie Magazine"
5340 Alla Rd., Ste. 109
Los Angeles, CA 90066
Office: 310-828-8388; Cell: 310-710-0800



Moore-Love, Karla

From: scott fogarty <lilfogs4444@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2019 1:24 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Tree Code

Esteemed Commissioners -

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen in support of extending for 5 years the sunset clause ultimately getting rid of it. I also encourage you to remove the exemptions from the tree code for either today or if additional process time is required, by the end of the first quarter of 2020, and an update of Title 11 (Tree Code) in the 2021 budget cycle.

Portland is well known for our urban trees and our urban tree canopy which have been under attack increased population influx. Trees are the lungs of the city and need to be protected as we face ever water and habitat.

Therefore I support extending existing big tree protections in private development situations. I support to remove exemptions for Title 11 to ensure that industrial and commercial properties are held to the same tree as everyone else in the City. I support City Council removing exemptions for protecting and mitigating for lands. These sites are often located in sensitive environmental areas (such as next to rivers and streams) and Protecting trees on these lands is a matter of both environmental protection and environmental justice. Our tool to fight climate change impacts and the entire City needs to play a role in improving community health and commercial land owners should not be exempt.

Council had already delayed for far too long on this issue and it is doing significant damage to our environmental neighborhoods.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to those who speak for the trees! We appreciate it and so do they.

Very sincerely -

Scott Fogarty
119 NE Monroe
503.841.2134



ReplyReply allForward

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Barbara Haynes <bhaynes14@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2019 12:59 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony; Commissioner Hardesty; Commissioner Eudaly;
Commissioner Fish; Wheeler, Mayor
Cc: treesforlifeoregon@gmail.com
Subject: Tree Decision

I moved to Portland two years ago, always having thought of the City as environmentally savvy and passionate about preserving its unique environment. Having read about today's City Council decision, I am extremely concerned that the the commitment to protect our trees from the rapacious greed of industrial developers will be thrown aside due to relentless lobbying.

As a citizen of Oregon, I passionately urge decision makers to:

1. Extend existing private development tree protections to the distant future, at least to 2050
2. Immediately remove exemptions to Title 11 to insure that industrial and commercial entities are held to the same tree preservation and density standards as everyone else in Portland
3. Commit to further mitigate environmental damage that has already been allowed to plague our community in its most vulnerable areas, causing public health issues to worsen
4. Commit to promoting and strengthening Title 11 so that it is the law of the land, devoid of loopholes

As we all know, trees take a long time to grow. While planting new trees, we must strongly work to preserve mature trees, as they are the beacon of environmental and thus human health. With the glut of published scientific research warning us of the fact that we have little time left to ameliorate the worst of climate damage, I cannot fathom any consideration of lifting ANY tree protections for ANY reason. In fact, I want to scream, HOW DARE YOU!

Most sincerely,

Barbara Haynes
10668 SW Lancaster Road
Portland, OR 97219

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Mary Hayden <hayden.mary.k@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2019 12:11 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Tree Ordinance

Guys, if you're serious about protecting us from the consequences of global warming....TAKE CARE OF THE TREES!

- 1) Extend the sunset clause on the big tree amendments for five years or remove it altogether,
- 2) Remove the exemptions from the tree code for commercial and industrial land either today or if additional process time is required, by the end of the first quarter of 2020, and
- 3) Commit to funding a comprehensive update of Title 11 (Tree Code) in the 2021 budget cycle.

Thanks for listening!

Mary Hayden



December 4, 2019

Mayor Ted Wheeler and Members of Portland City Council
Portland City Hall
1211 SW Fourth Ave.
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Commissioners:

Thank you for initiating the public hearing on November 13, 2019 on the Bureau of Development Services' (BDS) proposal to extend the sunset date for the temporary tree preservation requirements in development situations in the City's Title 11 (11.50.040.C) from December 31, 2019 to December 31, 2021.

Thank you also for scheduling December 5, 2019 to continue that discussion, to hear proposals to eliminate commercial and industrial exemptions from Tree Density and Preservation standards, and to reduce the inch-for-inch mitigation threshold from the current 36" diameter at breast height (DBH) to 20".

The Urban Forestry Commission (UFC), on November 21, voted to advise the Portland City Council to make the following three changes to the City's Tree Code, Title 11:

1. Amend Title 11 either by extending the sunset date for tree preservation requirements in development situations (11.50.040.C) for two years, from December 31, 2019, or—as suggested at the City Council meeting on November 13, 2019—by making this change permanent. These temporary preservation requirements were originally approved by City Council in 2016 (ORD 187685).
2. Amend Title 11 to remove the exemptions from Tree Preservation **and** Tree Density standards (11.50.040.B.1 and 11.50.050.B.1.c, respectively) for trees in development situations on sites in specified industrial, commercial, and employment zones (IH, IG1, EX, and CX).
3. Amend Title 11 to reduce the 36" DBH threshold to 20" DBH for inch-for-inch mitigation (Table 50-1), and for required preservation or fee-in-lieu payment (11.50.040.C.1.b).

Please note that the Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC), at their September 24, 2019 meeting, voted to extend the sunset date (#1 above) by two years and to remove commercial and industrial exemptions (#2). They did not discuss #3. Reference letters to City Council by the PSC, dated October 10, and the UFC, dated October 21, 2019.



Explanation

The three large tree preservation amendments on page 1 are consistent with City policies in the recently adopted Comprehensive Plan the City's Climate Action Plan, and Climate Preparation strategy, each of which call for a more robust tree canopy to provide a myriad of benefits. Trees are an integral and unique part of City infrastructure and an important tool in building community resilience in the face of climate change.

Trees—unlike other infrastructure—gain value as they age, and they provide a myriad of public health, economic, and ecological benefits. Those benefits are increasingly important as the climate warms and Portland continues to grow. As City plans call for extensive new development and increased density, there is the potential for significant losses in tree canopy. The City must be proactive in its policy making, planning, regulations, and investments to sustain and improve our urban forest infrastructure. It remains important to continue collecting data and to initiate a comprehensive update of Title 11 to address remaining issues and opportunities for improvement.

Recommendation #1: Amend Title 11 either by extending the sunset date for tree preservation requirements in development situations (11.50.040.C) for at least two years, from December 31, 2019, or—as was suggested at City Council on November 13, 2019—make this change permanent. These temporary preservation requirements were originally approved by City Council in 2016 (ORD 187685).

The UFC held a public hearing on October 17, 2019 to consider an urgent amendment to Title 11. The amendment extends the sunset date for tree preservation requirements in development situations (11.50.040.C) from December 31, 2019 to December 31, 2021.

These tree preservation requirements dictate a fee-in-lieu of preserving trees that must be paid into a fund for planting replacement trees. The fee structure will expire--absent an extension—requires inch-for-inch mitigation for larger trees, which acknowledges the much greater benefits of larger trees compared to smaller trees.

However, during the November 13 hearing, City Council discussed potentially eliminating the sunset altogether or extending it to 2050. The Council heard support for these options during public testimony, as well. The Urban Forestry Commission discussed these options on November 21, and concurs with eliminating the sunset or extending it to 2050.



Recommendation #2: Amend Title 11 to remove the exemptions from Tree Preservation and Tree Density standards (11.50.040.B.1 and 11.50.050.B.1.c, respectively), for trees in development situations on sites in IH, IG1, EX, and CX zones.

The UFC and PSC both recommend that City Council remove this exemption from the Title 11 Tree Preservation standard. The UFC has updated its recommendation to include removing the identical and corollary zone-based exemption from Title 11 Tree Density standards. The Tree Density standards require developers to plant trees on development sites that do not meet tree canopy targets or pay a fee-in-lieu into the City's tree replacement planting fund.

These zone-based exemptions from Title 11 Tree Preservation and Tree Density standards are inequitable and do not support the goals and policies of the City's Comprehensive Plan, Portland's Climate Action Plan, or the Climate Preparation Strategy. These plans call for increased and equitably distributed tree canopy, reduced impervious area, and actions to reduce urban heat island effect. These exemptions allow for tree removal, without mitigation or requirements to plant on-site trees, in some of Portland's most intensively developed zones. These zones generally do not meet City tree canopy targets and are prone to increased air temperatures and poor air quality. Many people work or live in and/or nearby, including residents of abutting lower income neighborhoods. More trees are needed to help mitigate rising temperatures and flooding in and near these areas.

It should also be noted that these zone-based exemptions from both the Tree Preservation and Tree Density requirements were added hastily to Title 11 during the final City Council hearings of the Citywide Tree Project in 2011. The exemptions were not adopted to meet City goals and policies, but rather to avoid potential legal complications because the City had not adopted an updated Economic Opportunities Analysis (EOA) and Buildable Lands Inventory (BLI). The City Council approved the exemptions but directed that they be revisited once these efforts were completed. This has not taken place in the nearly four years since those analyses were completed.

The Urban Forestry Commission's recommendation no longer includes a two-year sunset date for removal of these exemptions. The UFC believes strongly that these exemptions should be removed permanently for the reasons above.

Recommendation #3: Amend Title 11 to reduce the 36" DBH threshold to 20" DBH for inch-for-inch mitigation (Table 50-1), and for required preservation or fee-in-lieu payment (11.50.040.C.1.b).

The Urban Forestry Commission has also updated this recommendation. The recommendation in our October 21 letter was contingent on a Portland City Council declaration of a climate emergency. After discussion on November 21,



2019, the UFC agreed that this recommendation is appropriate and necessary to meet a diverse suite of City goals and policies with or without a formal City Council declaration. Tying this code amendment to a Council resolution that may or may not materialize, and which may have an indeterminate timeline, introduces needless complexity and implementation difficulty.

Reducing the tree size threshold from 36" to 20" DBH is needed to provide additional incentive for developers to preserve large trees on development sites, or to generate funds for additional tree planting to replace canopy lost to development over time. Currently, the inch-for-inch mitigation requirement only applies to a very small percentage of trees that are subject to the Title 11 Tree Preservation Standards. BDS data for sites receiving residential new construction and demolition permits in August 2015 showed that trees 12"-19" DBH comprised 47 percent of the trees on these sites. Trees 20"-29" DBH comprised 34 percent of eligible trees, and trees 30"-35" comprised an additional 13 percent of trees. Only 7 percent of trees were 36" DBH or larger. Reducing the tree size threshold for inch-for-inch mitigation from 36" to 20" DBH will provide a stronger incentive to preserve slightly more than half of the eligible trees on development sites, instead of the less than 10 percent of trees currently subject to this requirement.

In addition, this change is needed to address inconsistencies within Title 11 itself. Title 11 already generally requires up to inch-for-inch replacement of trees 20" DBH or larger that are removed in non-development situations, except for trees on residential properties in single-dwelling use. Mitigation for development-related tree removal should be held to an equivalent standard.

A significant lag time exists before a newly planted tree provides anything close to the benefits provided by large trees. As development continues, it is important to encourage retention of large trees wherever possible. It is also important to provide effective mechanisms for planting new, preferably larger form trees, to replace trees that are removed and to replenish and improve the urban forest. Whether these Title 11 amendments will provide effective incentives to preserve large trees warrants continued monitoring. The UFC urges the City Council to direct BDS to continue collecting data on Title 11's performance toward intended goals.

Sincerely,

Daniel Newberry,
UFC Policy Committee Chair

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Ali Berman <emmash@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2019 11:11 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Please strengthen Portland's tree code and remove exemptions!

Dear Mayor Wheeler, Commissioner Hardesty, Commissioner Fritz, Commissioner Fish and Commissioner Eudaly,

I'm writing today to stand with Portland Audubon in support of protecting Portland's trees. This isn't just an environmental issue, although it is a big one. It's an equity issue. Trees are vital for wildlife and vital for people, and the exemptions on commercial and industrial lands create corridors of dead zones that hurt the neighboring communities. Trees do so much for us - from offsetting the urban heat affect to cleaning our air to providing increased mental health benefits.

Today, I'm asking you to:

- 1) Extend the sunset clause on the big tree amendments for five years or remove it altogether,
- 2) Remove the exemptions from the tree code for commercial and industrial land either today or if additional process time is required, by the end of the first quarter of 2020, and
- 3) Commit to funding a comprehensive update of Title 11 (Tree Code) in the 2021 budget cycle.

Thank you for your time. I hope you take this issue seriously.

Best,

Ali Berman
2737 NW Upshur St. #122
Portland, OR 97210

--

www.aliberman.com

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Ginger Edwards <ginger.edws@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2019 11:08 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Saving Trees in Development Situations

Hello,

We are losing large trees in all Development sites. I am sure it is easier for the developer to just clear cut the site, but the loss to the community and the City of Portland is large.

Even trees along the property lines are being removed. Many appear to be capable of being saved, even with large construction/development projects.

A great example is a very large development project in Overlook on the corner of Skidmore near Interstate. A large London Plane Tree is located there. It was named a Heritage Tree, but not before a permit was issued for demolition of the Overlook Restaurant and development of this site. However, the developer, upon hearing of this pending official designation of Heritage Tree (pending City Council approval) hired an arborist and made plans to save this large, lovely tree. We were so happy to have a developer honor the community and save this tree.

I believe many more large trees that contribute to the health of Portlanders - clean air, water, storm water drainage, provide habitat for birds and insects, and provide shade (heat island impact lessened), and finally, contribute to the character of our neighborhoods, could be saved with just a little effort.

We who live in Portland need to stand up for our community and not let those who just make money developing here make decisions that last for decades.

Thank you,
Ginger Edwards
6730 N. Wilbur Ave
Portland, Oregon 97217
ginger.edws@gmail.com

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Susan Schubert <sueschubert@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2019 10:37 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Protect Big Trees

To the Mayor and Commissioners:

Please remove exemptions for Title 11 to ensure that industrial and commercial properties be held to the same tree preservation and density standards as everyone else in the city.

As a resident of the Sellwood-Moreland neighborhood, I'm aware that the current exemptions would have a significant effect on Moreland Woods, a two-acre property just east of Oaks Bottom Wildlife Preserve at 14th Avenue, with more than 20 mature Douglas-firs. These beautiful trees, some of which are nearly 80 years old, currently have limited protections under the law.

I call on Council to remove the exemptions for protecting and mitigating for trees on industrial and commercial lands, which are often located in sensitive environmental areas and near low-income neighborhoods. Protecting these trees is a matter of both environmental protection and environmental justice.

Portland's urban tree canopy is an essential tool to fight the impact of climate change. Our city needs to lead the way towards improving community health and landscape resilience; industrial and commercial land owners should not be exempt.

Please vote to extend and strengthen big tree protections. We're talking about our future—for clean air, clean water and a livable environment. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sue

susieqschubert@gmail.com
Sellwood Lofts Condominiums
7870 S.E. 13th Avenue, no. 206
Portland, OR 97202-6352
503-956-3871

From Clive James, who died on Sunday at 80: "Those who lack a sense of humor are without judgment and should be trusted with nothing." My quote: "Those without a sense of humor have no ammunition for the tough battles of life. Laugh lines indicate that we've kept the tears from flowing so often."

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Sue Staehli <xansilk@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2019 7:30 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Cc: treesforlifeoregon@gmail.com
Subject: Support fees that protect trees

This email is in support of keeping fees that discourage the cutting of big trees, and require trees to be planted, in and around human “developments”. The overstory is critical to our survival.

Thank you,
Sue Staehli
503-395-0022
4477 SW 94th Ave
PDX 97225

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Whitney Dorer <whitneyd@friendsoftrees.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2019 7:26 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Testimony Letter for City Council
Attachments: Letter to Portland City Council.pdf

Greetings City Council members,

Attached please find a letter in place of our testimony this morning in regards to our precious urban forest.

Sincerely,
Whitney Dorer

Whitney Dorer
Deputy Director
pronouns: She/Her/Hers



Celebrating 30 years of trees + community--join us!



189795

December 4, 2019

City of Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler
Commissioner Nick Fish
Commissioner Chloe Eudaly
Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty

RE: December 5th City of Portland Tree Hearing

Dear Portland City Council,

We urge you to protect trees on industrial and commercial lands.

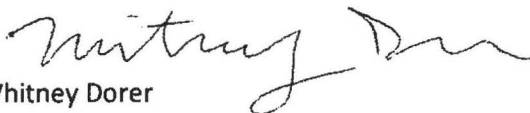
We support eliminating exemptions for industrial and commercial zones. We also ask City Council to eliminate the exemptions from the Title 11 Tree Density standards, also known as the tree planting requirements. This standard requires developers to plant trees on sites that do not meet tree canopy targets. The Tree Density standards are especially important in areas with high density/intensity development, like commercial, industrial, and employment zones where existing sites often have less tree canopy to start with, that are prone to urban heat island, and where a great deal of people live and work. These tree planting requirements are needed to help increase urban canopy, especially in tree-deficient areas, and to help meet Portland's tree canopy targets overall.

We also support extending the mitigation fees for trees 36 inches DBH and greater, and decreasing to include trees of smaller stature, if possible. As we plant trees now that we hope to be the big trees of the future, we fully support protecting those that are already providing so many environmental and community benefits due to their stature now.

As leaders in the field of Urban Forestry in the City of Portland, we urge you to consider what it will take for us to protect our future urban tree canopy to ensure a city that can be resilient to increasing threats such as development, pests, disease, and a changing climate.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter,

Sincerely,


Whitney Dorer

Deputy Director, WhitneyD@FriendsofTrees.org

503-467-2521

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Carolyn and Bruce Matthews and Nelson <nelson-matthews@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2019 7:14 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Cc: krubin317@gmail.com
Subject: City Council Item #1126, December 5, 2019 "Amend trees in Development Situations"

Mr. Mayor and City Commissioners,

As a founding member of Trees for Life, I wholeheartedly support extending the sunset date for higher mitigation fees paid in-lieu of preservation for trees 36" or larger in diameter on private development for at least the next 50 years. Our city will not see the benefits these large trees provide today ever again once they are removed. A tree that is 50 - 80 years old provides so much more benefit to our city than a tree planted today. The larger mitigation fees paid in-lieu of preservation for these large trees just may be the incentive needed in some cases to preserve those large trees today.

It is disappointing that the Mayor and the City Commissioners are unwilling or unable to follow the recommendations of their appointed Planning and Sustainability Commission and Urban Forestry Commission which both recommended removing the exemption of the in-lieu of mitigation fees for certain zones (1H,1G1, CX and EX). It is often in these zones where lowest tree canopy in the City is found, where many people work, where urban heat islands are prevalent and which are adjacent to low canopy residential neighborhoods. Just drive along northeast Columbia Boulevard between MLK, Jr. and NE 78th to see the massive scale of buildings, asphalt and concrete but very little canopy. Portland is open for business but why must large trees and commercial development appear to be mutually exclusive in so many cases. I have lived in the Cully neighborhood for over 40 years which is adjacent to much of this stretch of Columbia Boulevard.

I urge you to think of our increasing climate challenges today and about solutions appropriate for our City. Trees are part of the short term and long term solution. Certainly business enterprises need to contribute to positive solutions to these challenges. They also need to be perceived as contributing positive solutions to these climate challenges. Please address these exemptions in a timely manner.

Bruce Nelson
Trees for Life founding member

Moore-Love, Karla

From: jean lea gazin <jeanlea@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 10:10 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Moreland Woods

Dear Mayor and Commissioner,

Our planet desperately needs to process greenhouse gases present in the atmosphere. While tech companies race to create efficient CO2 scrubbing facilities, Portland boasts an embarrassment of riches in the most efficient technology created to date- trees. Are we so rich in trees that we'll let developers remove them? Will we allocate funds elsewhere to compensate for this loss of vital ecosystem functioning?

A few financial perks to trees include:

- energy savings and avoided air pollutant emissions due to shading of buildings
- sequestration (storage) of carbon dioxide, the principal atmospheric greenhouse gas
- absorption of air pollutants
- reduction in stormwater runoff and required infrastructure
- increases in private real estate market values

- **(Assessment of Ecosystem Services Provided by Urban Trees: Public Lands Within the Urban Growth Boundary of Corvallis, Oregon**
- **TECHNICAL REPORT)**
prepared by Don Phillips, Ph.D., Research Biologist, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Western Ecology Division, Corvallis, OR

Or should we talk about what green spaces do for our psyche? Can disconnected urban youth learn about nature from screens when we remove the trees where they play? Will we treat this anxious culture more effectively by creating more concrete and buildings or by preserving historic neighborhood beauty? I ask you to look into what E.O. Wilson proposes with the term "Biophilia."

If we are to save this planet, it will not be just a tech fix in distant lands. It will be here, a few trees at a time. It will taking the time to see them, enjoy them. It will be a child playing there instead of getting in a car to be driven somewhere else.

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/does-being-around-trees-help-people-feel-good/>



Does Being around Trees Help People Feel Good? - Scientific American

Does Being around Trees Help People Feel Good? Recent research has shown that trees clean the air, and our feelings

www.scientificamerican.com

Please remove exemptions for Title 11 to ensure that industrial and commercial properties be held to the same tree preservation and density standards as everyone else in the city. As a resident of the Sellwood-Moreland neighborhood, I'm aware that the current exemptions would have a significant effect on Moreland Woods, a two-acre property just east of Oaks Bottom Wildlife Preserve at 14th Avenue, with more than 20 mature Douglas-firs. These beautiful trees, some of which are nearly 80 years old, currently have limited protections under the law. I call on Council to remove the exemptions for protecting and mitigating for trees on industrial and commercial lands, which are often located in sensitive environmental areas and near low-income neighborhoods. Protecting these trees is a matter of both environmental protection and environmental justice. Portland's urban tree canopy is an essential tool to fight the impact of climate change. Our city needs to lead the way towards improving community health and landscape resilience; industrial and commercial land owners should not be exempt. Please vote to extend and strengthen big tree protections.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Jean Lea Gazin
1134 SE Tenino St

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Matthew Sheinin <mgsheinin@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 9:38 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Tree regulations

The Tree Code (title 11) provision exempting developers from tree removal regulations **MUST NOT BE RENEWED!** This provision is an environmental insult to which our government should not be a party.

Think of the incredible work done by Urban Forest folks to preserve our trees, regulate the appropriateness of specific tree planting, and encourage expansion of our urban forest...which is, perhaps, the greatest of any American City.

Think of the efforts of Friends of Trees to support their work in making trees more widely available to individual residents in the effort to expand the urban forest.

In balancing the value of maintaining existing trees vs. expanding building, even of much needed housing, there should be nothing automatic about the sacrifice of trees. Rather, decisions about removal must be made on a case-by-case basis so that an appropriate values-based decision can be made in each case.

Thank you for considering the above discussion in your upcoming Council deliberations.

Matthew Sheinin
1920 NE 150th Ave
Portland, 97230

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Theodora Tsongas <ttsongas@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 9:25 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Trees in Development Situations

December 4, 2019

To: The Mayor and City Council, Portland, Oregon

I am writing to urge you to protect trees on industrial and commercial lands by removing the exemptions for tree preservation and density standards on commercial and industrial lands, and to increase protections for all trees in private development projects. As we are in a climate crisis that is also a public health crisis, we must act in every way we can to preserve and maintain tree cover to sequester carbon, to maintain and enhance wetlands and riparian areas, reduce heat islands, control erosion, reduce air pollution, and enhance the beauty and livability of all of Portland. Trees are a major defense in the battle to reduce the adverse impacts of climate disruption. This is also an environmental justice issue, as the health impacts of climate disruption are felt more severely among persons living on the margins of commercial and industrial areas where the resilience provided by a healthy environment is absent. Preserving and maintaining trees in commercial and industrial areas enhances the beauty and reduces the austere, desert-like look of these areas, as well supporting the ecosystems that support life. The science is clear: trees provide so much more support when they are left standing. We need to learn to live with them. They are not in the way.

Please do all you can to protect and maintain the beauty and health of our City. Thank you for your hard work.

Theodora Tsongas, PhD, MS
Portland 97215

Moore-Love, Karla

From: David Stark <dstark@teleport.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 7:35 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Support for: Extending the “big tree amendment” Removing Exemptions for Commercial / Industrial Properties

Mayor Ted Wheeler
Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty
Commissioner Chloe Eudaly
Commissioner Nick Fish

Hello,

I would like to express my support for extending the “Big Tree Amendment” and removing exemptions for commercial and industrial properties. I have been a resident of Portland and Metro since 1978. Since this time, and in particular the last 10 years, I have seen a significant degradation in the amount of tree cover and greenery in the City of Portland. While I understand the need to allow development due to the significant population growth our city needs to be more proactive protecting significant tree groves and natural areas. For me personally Moreland Woods is a fine example of what needs to be preserved. I have been to many large cities and do not want to see Portland become another New York or Chicago. Instead, perhaps Portland needs to start looking at Singapore, a place that has taken great strides to protect its green resources.

Thank you for your consideration for this issue.

David Stark
Resident Creston Kenilworth
4214 SE 28th Pl

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Sharon Kelly <kelly.sharon@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 5:14 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Cc: Trees for Life Oregon
Subject: 1126 Amend Trees In Development Situations Code/Big Tree Mitigation

Dear City Council Members,

I support and encourage your vote to extend the sunset date to 2050 for tree preservation and mitigation regulations in development situations on private property. Tree protection, especially for large trees, is important to our City, and environment, at this time of air/water quality and climate crisis, and can not afford to lost. Thank you to all the members that support and champion the importance of this amendment.

I urge the council to take up the vote to expand tree protection and preservation in the City's Title 11 (Tree Code), especially to close the loop hole and end exemptions from tree preservation, protection and density requirements and regulations for commercial and industrial development.

I'm a resident of Cully neighborhood in NE Portland and live adjacent to some highly industrial areas. Cully has the highest diversity levels in Oregon, according to the last census, with a majority of low-income households. We also suffer with some of the worst air quality in the City, high levels of dangerous pollutants and increasing issues with heat islands in the summer. The exemptions from tree regulations in commercial/industrial areas are an equity issue that affects me and my neighbors, and they need to be addressed now. We count on our City Council members to be a voice for us, and not to maintain policies that favor wealthy developers over our residents. Please do not delay, set the date for the overhaul of Title 11/Tree Code immediately.

Sincerely,
Sharon Kelly
Cully Farmers Market Manager
Home Address: 5817 NE Sumner St., Portland, OR 97218

McClymont, Keelan

From: Maria Velez <m333ster@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 3:57 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Cc: treesforlifeoregon@gmail.com
Subject: Big Tree Mitigation December 5th hearing

Dear City Council,

It's disheartening that I can't make it to this hearing tomorrow to discuss a beloved resource that is often taken for granted. In an era where humanity is destroying its environment, TREES are a natural solution to keeping cool temperatures, keeping our air clean, and creating an aesthetic we can all enjoy in a city jungle of concrete. One of the reasons I moved from New York City to Portland was it was a smaller city full of greener streets. The citizens of Portland and in every city frankly deserve nice cityscapes even in industrial and commercial areas. There must be better solutions to developers plans. Why tear down trees when you can work with them? Keep the canopy and assist in keeping with the canopy standards.

*I support extending the big tree mitigation fees until 2050. Please Eliminating exemptions for industrial/commercial zones
Eliminate the exemptions from the Title 11 Tree Density standards.*

--
Maria Velez
Peace Corps TEFL Volunteer; Nicaragua and Republic of Georgia
2006-2010

From: Betsy Summers <betsy.s.summers@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 10:21 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Save Our Trees

Dear City Council,

Sellwood-Moreland is a booming neighborhood. There are buildings being torn down and larger duplexes and apartments taking their place. We have no public parking, other than our streets.

This type of density is exactly what Portland wants; however, it makes it more important than ever that we save the few remaining green spaces we have.

The compromise for development is a simple parking lot—one which could work for both the Mausoleum and the newest Portland park, Moreland Woods.

Thank you.

Betsy Summers

--

"Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public." Cornel West

McClymont, Keelan

From: Jennifer Baxter <drjrbaxter@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 7:26 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: URGENT - Portland City Tree Code

Hello,

I am a resident of East Portland, in the Centennial neighborhood. In 2016 I became a Neighborhood Tree Steward through the Urban Forestry Dept and in 2018 I was appointed to the Heritage Tree Committee. I have lived in various neighborhoods around Portland since 2005, when I came to Oregon to attend medical school. I have always been smitten with the glorious tree cover of this city, it is such a valuable resource, in ways that are immeasurable.

As of late, I have been noticing more and more of EPDXs larger form trees coming down, especially clusters of giant Douglas firs that aren't really part of the nature scape in other parts of the city. I realize that developments need to and will happen, but these trees must be protected. There is room for both. No price tag can bring back what these trees provide this community, this area of Portland that already faces so many complex disparities and inequities. Especially when Urban forestry is making such a huge effort to increase the canopy in these neighborhoods. It just doesn't make any sense.

Within the last year or so, I have seen so many big trees come down, its quite heart breaking. We have the ability to build around them, and we absolutely should! As an example, I watched about 30 magnificent Doug firs be cut down on the block of SE Stark between 126th and 127th, when there is GIANT unused parking lot directly across the street. What a HUGE shame. I cried for weeks every time I passed that property. That unused parking lot should have been developed, and the block of trees left to be a small park for residents of those new apartments and other neighbors to enjoy some shade and vitamin Nature. I used to live on SE 143rd between Burnside and Stark, where within the last year or so about 7 giant Doug firs, two giant Oregon white oaks, and several cedars where cut down to make room for high density housing. One one block! I cried when those oaks came down, one in particular was so glorious, it even had an old school tire swing in it. It should have been built around. Now there's a junky play structure in that same spot that kids never use. That street has been completely destroyed. Myself and many of the neighbors have since moved.

Please please please do the right thing and not only vote to extend protecting these big trees but amend the tree code so that they are CAN NOT BE cut down. I don't need to launch into the habitat benefits, the shade benefits, the climate impacts, the health impacts, etc etc, I hope you know that already. I am writing to tell you that removal of the big trees is HURTING EAST PORTLAND and it needs to change NOW.

Please feel free to contact me at any time at 503-313-0041.

Warmest Regards,
Jennifer Baxter

From: Beppie Shapiro <beppie@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 9:41 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: 12/4/19 Council item 1123

Dear Council Chair and members: I whole-heartedly support Councilman Fish's resolution requiring city agencies to stop using leaf blowers. I have been aware for many years of how inefficient these machines are in burning fuel - More fuel is wasted in pollution than used to power the leaf-blower's action. In addition, frequently these leaf blowers just move leaves etc. from one place to another, whence a good breeze can return them to their original place. The noise pollution most would agree is horrible.

I'm so happy Councilman Fish submitted this resolution and I urge you all to support it.

Beppie Shapiro
3860 SE Woodward St Apt 2
Portland OR 97202

McClymont, Keelan

From: Kristina Perkins <krisperk@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 9:31 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Protect Big Trees

[Feel free to customize this form to reflect your specifics.]

To the Mayor and Commissioners:

Please remove exemptions for Title 11 to ensure that industrial and commercial properties be held to the same tree preservation and density standards as everyone else in the city.

As a resident of the Sellwood-Moreland neighborhood, I'm aware that the current exemptions would have a significant effect on Moreland Woods, a two-acre property just east of Oaks Bottom Wildlife Preserve at 14th Avenue, with more than 20 mature Douglas-firs. These beautiful trees, some of which are nearly 80 years old, currently have limited protections under the law.

I call on Council to remove the exemptions for protecting and mitigating for trees on industrial and commercial lands, which are often located in sensitive environmental areas and near low-income neighborhoods. Protecting these trees is a matter of both environmental protection and environmental justice.

Portland's urban tree canopy is an essential tool to fight the impact of climate change. Our city needs to lead the way towards improving community health and landscape resilience; industrial and commercial land owners should not be exempt.

Please vote to extend and strengthen big tree protections. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kristina Perkins

From: Andrea Hopkins <andreabhopkins@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 7:25 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Protect Big Trees

[Feel free to customize this form to reflect your specifics.]

To the Mayor and Commissioners:

Please remove exemptions for Title 11 to ensure that industrial and commercial properties be held to the same tree preservation and density standards as everyone else in the city.

As a resident of the Sellwood-Moreland neighborhood, I'm aware that the current exemptions would have a significant effect on Moreland Woods, a two-acre property just east of Oaks Bottom Wildlife Preserve at 14th Avenue, with more than 20 mature Douglas-firs. These beautiful trees, some of which are nearly 80 years old, currently have limited protections under the law.

I call on Council to remove the exemptions for protecting and mitigating for trees on industrial and commercial lands, which are often located in sensitive environmental areas and near low-income neighborhoods. Protecting these trees is a matter of both environmental protection and environmental justice.

Portland's urban tree canopy is an essential tool to fight the impact of climate change. Our city needs to lead the way towards improving community health and landscape resilience; industrial and commercial land owners should not be exempt.

Please vote to extend and strengthen big tree protections. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Andrea Hopkins

McClymont, Keelan

From: Merry Ann Moore <merryannmoore@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 4:16 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Moreland Woods

To the Mayor and Commissioners:

Please remove exemptions for Title 11 to ensure that industrial and commercial properties be held to the same tree preservation and density standards as everyone else in the city.

As a resident of the Woodstock neighborhood, I'm aware that the current exemptions would have a significant effect on Moreland Woods, a two-acre property just east of Oaks Bottom Wildlife Preserve at 14th Avenue, with more than 20 mature Douglas-firs. These beautiful trees, some of which are nearly 80 years old, currently have limited protections under the law.

I call on Council to remove the exemptions for protecting and mitigating for trees on industrial and commercial lands, which are often located in sensitive environmental areas and near low-income neighborhoods. Protecting these trees is a matter of both environmental protection and environmental justice.

Portland's urban tree canopy is an essential tool to fight the impact of climate change. Our city needs to lead the way towards improving community health and landscape resilience; industrial and commercial land owners should not be exempt.

Please vote to extend and strengthen big tree protections. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Merry Ann Moore
6319 SE 45th Ave
Portland 97206

Sent from my iPhone

From: Carl Perkins <rhinocarl@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 3:43 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Stop cutting down our neighborhood trees

To the Mayor and Commissioners:

Please remove exemptions for Title 11 to ensure that industrial and commercial properties be held to the same tree preservation and density standards as everyone else in the city.

As a resident of the Sellwood-Moreland neighborhood, I'm aware that the current exemptions would have a significant effect on Moreland Woods, a two-acre property just east of Oaks Bottom Wildlife Preserve at 14th Avenue, with more than 20 mature Douglas-firs. These beautiful trees, some of which are nearly 80 years old, currently have limited protections under the law.

I call on Council to remove the exemptions for protecting and mitigating for trees on industrial and commercial lands, which are often located in sensitive environmental areas and near low-income neighborhoods. Protecting these trees is a matter of both environmental protection and environmental justice.

Portland's urban tree canopy is an essential tool to fight the impact of climate change. Our city needs to lead the way towards improving community health and landscape resilience; industrial and commercial land owners should not be exempt.

Please vote to extend and strengthen big tree protections. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Carl Perkins

From: Joanie Beldin <joanibldn@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 3:24 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Portland Tree Protections

Dear Mayor Wheeler and the Portland City Council,

I am writing with concern about the Council's upcoming vote on the future of this city's trees -particularly trees that are growing within private development lands as well as within industrial and commercial properties. Trees are one of Portland's most important assets. Thanks to the city's trees, millions of gallons of rainwater is intercepted each year, providing the city with natural storm water management. Our trees absorb hundreds of millions of pollution which would otherwise affect the health of our citizens. And for a city which is dedicated to do its part to fight climate change, the preservation of as many trees as possible should be a top priority, as our tree canopy is an essential tool for fighting climate change impacts.

Portland has a well deserved reputation for its tree canopy. However, this canopy must extend within all areas of the city. There should be no exceptions. I am writing in support of the Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission and the Portland Urban Forestry Commission recommendation that the City Council remove exemptions for tree preservation and density standards on industrial and commercial lands. I also support extending existing big tree protections in private development situations.

I'm very concerned about the proposed removal of a 40' wide by 2,400 long stand of trees on the edge of Smith and Bybee Lakes- to be replaced by cement and warehouses.

I live ten minutes away from Smith and Bybee Lakes and I visit there often. The preservation of this 2000 acre wetland over industrial landfilling is one of Portland's greatest conservation success stories. Smith and Bybee is an oasis surrounded by industry and warehouses. A buffer of trees separating the wetland from industry is critical to the health of this area and it's wildlife diversity.

By intercepting rainwater, the tree buffer helps protect adjacent industrial properties from stormwater damage. By absorbing industrial pollution, the tree buffer helps maintain a healthier wetlands habitat. And the tree buffers provide vital habitat for this area's wildlife. To remove a significant buffer of trees would be an act with negative impacts on both the industrial property and the wetlands. To protect places like Smith and Bybee Lakes, tree protection exemptions on industrial, commercial properties must be removed.

I respectfully ask that immediate action be taken to removed the exemptions from Title 11. It is time for all of Portland's residents, be they individuals or commercial industries, to do their part in improving community health and landscape resilience, no exceptions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joan Beldin

10223 N. Hudson St. Portland

McClymont, Keelan

From: marjorie.nafziger@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 9:33 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Protect Big Trees

To the Mayor and Commissioners:

Please remove exemptions for Title 11 to ensure that industrial and commercial properties be held to the same tree preservation and density standards as everyone else in the city.

As a resident of the Sellwood-Moreland neighborhood, I'm aware that the current exemptions would have a significant effect on Moreland Woods, a two-acre property just east of Oaks Bottom Wildlife Preserve at 14th Avenue, with more than 20 mature Douglas-firs. These beautiful trees, some of which are nearly 80 years old, currently have limited protections under the law. Many, like myself, have found these trees to be a restful, beautiful, and inspirational place to be in our neighborhood

I call on Council to remove the exemptions for protecting and mitigating for trees on industrial and commercial lands, which are often located in sensitive environmental areas and near low-income neighborhoods. Protecting these trees is a matter of both environmental protection and environmental justice.

Portland's urban tree canopy is an essential tool to fight the impact of climate change. Our city needs to lead the way towards improving community health and landscape resilience; industrial and commercial land owners should not be exempt.

Please vote to extend and strengthen big tree protections. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Nafziger
Westmoreland

Sent from my iPad

1126

189795

McClymont, Keelan

From: Janice Condit <jlcbendit@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:02 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Protect Big Trees

[Feel free to customize this form to reflect your specifics.]

To the Mayor and Commissioners:

Please remove exemptions for Title 11 to ensure that industrial and commercial properties be held to the same tree preservation and density standards as everyone else in the city.

As a resident of the Sellwood-Moreland neighborhood, I'm aware that the current exemptions would have a significant effect on Moreland Woods, a two-acre property just east of Oaks Bottom Wildlife Preserve at 14th Avenue, with more than 20 mature Douglas-firs. These beautiful trees, some of which are nearly 80 years old, currently have limited protections under the law.

I call on Council to remove the exemptions for protecting and mitigating for trees on industrial and commercial lands, which are often located in sensitive environmental areas and near low-income neighborhoods. Protecting these trees is a matter of both environmental protection and environmental justice.

Portland's urban tree canopy is an essential tool to fight the impact of climate change. Our city needs to lead the way towards improving community health and landscape resilience; industrial and commercial land owners should not be exempt.

Please vote to extend and strengthen big tree protections. Thank you.

Sincerely,

[your name]

Sent from my iPad

From: Amos Roddy <amosroddy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 9:39 PM
To: Wheeler, Mayor; Commissioner Hardesty; Commissioner Fish; Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Tree Code (title 11) exemptions

Dear City Commissioners,

As a citizen of Portland, I implore you to support the big tree protections until 2050 and eliminate exemptions for industrial/commercial zones and exemptions from the Title 11 Tree Density standards, also known as the tree planting requirements.

I am greatly concerned about the elimination of trees from these areas as their presence plays a vital role in the mitigation of environmental pollution and climate change impacts, protection of wildlife habitat, and the preservation of community health. If we are truly a "green" city, as so often claimed by ourselves and our neighbors, then protecting trees must be prioritized over ease of development. Protecting trees will not stop development, instead, a standard of considering the health of our environment will become a necessary procedure in economic progress, as it naturally should. We cannot afford to be inconvenienced by nature when the preservation of nature is our only hope in preventing both the decline of biodiversity and human health. These green spaces in Portland are important pockets of wild that help maintain what we citizens of Portland love about our city - the coexistence of the urban and natural. Dense tree canopies and large individual trees support hundreds of species of birds, both native and migratory, as well as countless other creatures that seek food and shelter as their homes become increasingly reduced and threatened by development. I live in one of the busiest neighborhood streets in Portland, yet the Douglas-fir in my backyard hosts a daily chorus of birds and squirrels. It is a refuge for wildlife as old buildings and houses are torn down all along the street to make room for new development. Areas of industrial development are often populated by low-income residents who cannot afford to put a buffer between themselves and the pollution and unsightliness of industrialization. Trees provide a refuge for them as well. Protecting trees and planting trees is one of the greatest things we can do to slow down the damage we are causing. We must do whatever we can to uphold that effort on a global scale and a local scale, starting with our own Tree Code.

Please support these protections and eliminate exemptions for environmental health and environmental justice.

Thank you,
Amos Roddy

189795 // 26

McClymont, Keelan

From: +15039975804@tmomail.net
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 9:36 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Attachments: text_1575351296722.txt

To the Mayor and Commissioners: Please remove exemptions for Title 11 to ensure that industrial and commercial properties be held to the same tree preservation and density standards as everyone else in the city. As a resident of the Sellwood-Moreland neighborhood, I'm aware that the current exemptions would have a significant effect on Moreland Woods, a two-acre property just east of Oaks Bottom Wildlife Preserve at 14th Avenue, with more than 20 mature Douglas-firs. These beautiful trees, some of which are nearly 80 years old, currently have limited protections under the law. I call on Council to remove the exemptions for protecting and mitigating for trees on industrial and commercial lands, which are often located in sensitive environmental areas and near low-income neighborhoods. Protecting these trees is a matter of both environmental protection and environmental justice. Portland's urban tree canopy is an essential tool to fight the impact of climate change. Our city needs to lead the way towards improving community health and landscape resilience; industrial and commercial land owners should not be exempt. Please vote to extend and strengthen big tree protections. Thank you. Sincerely, Hayley Cron



This message was sent to you by a T-Mobile wireless phone.

From: rebecca rottman <rottmanrebecca@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 9:16 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Cc: treesforlifeoregon@gmail.com
Subject: No more exemptions on tree code!

Dear City Council Members,

Regarding the upcoming Tree Code hearing, I ask you to please vote responsibly by getting rid of the exemptions that allow land owners to do away with our precious and necessary trees. We are in a climate crisis and need our elected officials to exercise leadership and put people and the planet before profit. The environment is the issue most important to me and those of you who do not vote in favor of it, will not receive my vote in the future.

Thank you for the work you do,

Rebecca

From: barbara wharton <barbaralwharton@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 3:09 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Fwd: Written Testimony for Thursday Dec 5 Agenda Item 1126
Attachments: SunsetDateExtensionTestimony12-05-2019.docx

Please find attached my testimony for item 1126 Amend Trees in Development Situations Code.

Thank you

Barbara Wharton

Barbara Wharton
5409 NE 35th Avenue
Portland, OR 97211

December 1, 2019

Mayor Ted Wheeler and Members of the Portland City Council
Portland City Hall
1211 SW Fourth Ave.
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Commissioners:

Thank you for scheduling the December 5, 2019 vote on the proposal to extend the sunset date for the temporary tree preservation requirements in development situations in the City's Title 11 (11.50.040.C) beyond the current scheduled expiration on December 31, 2019. I urge you to vote YES to extend the sunset date until December 31, 2050 as proposed by Commissioner Eudaly at the November 13 session.

I attended the September 24, 2019 Portland Sustainability Commission session during which the public was invited to present testimony regarding the extension. I listened to many different perspectives arguing in favor of an extension and was most impressed with the testimony of a young man of teenage years, whose arguments have stayed front of mind since. He argued for the extension, but more importantly questioned why there is a temporary status to protection to begin with, why there are size restrictions for imposing mitigation fees, why the existing mitigation rates are as low as they are, and why there are any exemptions.

Having heard his remarks, I am influenced to look upon the matter not from the perspective of what date is best to retire temporary preservation requirements, but instead to consider what Portland's livability score needs to be, period. From that vantage point, the current language is weak at best, but to allow it to expire in less than a month is worse. The list of negative impacts of a NO vote is long, and includes:

1. Brings into question the feasibility of the citywide initiatives/plans to preserve and improve livability for all Portlanders.
2. Suggests that Portland considers itself immune to climate change.
3. Sends a clear message to Portland's young people that the city is not hearing their growing call to action to take positive steps to make the city as livable for them as it has been for the generation that came before.
4. Signals to the growing number of concerned stakeholder residents that the Council is not capable of making best choices for our city.

Managing Portland's urban forest is a lot like a relay race. As Commissioners, you are the runner in this short leg of the race. You face certain obstacles and hurdles, and still you need to hold on to the baton and run as fast as you can before you hand the baton to the next runner. Voting YES is one small way the Commissioners can increase the chances the city will be ready for a successful handoff to the next runner.

Sincerely,

Barbara Wharton

McClymont, Keelan

From: Laura Dunn <lauracdunn@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 2:55 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Extend big tree mitigation fees

189795

Dear City Council,

I am a mother and climate activist urging you to extend the big tree mitigation fees until 2050. In 2015, pregnant with my first son, I sat under a hundred year old Doug fir the better part of each day to save the last two of 12 from a developer putting up mini mansions. This should not be the work of expecting mothers. We should have policies that preserve the natural environment. With climate change threatening our existence, we need our urban forest for habitat, clean, air, and carbon sequestration. I also urge you to be the climate activists you say you are, that we elected you to be. Please eliminate the exemptions for title 11 tree density standards. With development rampant, developers cannot have these exceptions or we will lose our urban forest. Every tree matters.

Sincerely,

Laura Dunn

--

Laura Dunn
She/Her/Hers
Artistic Director
The Broken Planetarium
www.brokenplanetarium.org
lauradunn.bandcamp.org

McClymont, Keelan

From: Tari Gunstone <tarigunstone@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 2:43 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Cc: Wheeler, Mayor; Commissioner Hardesty; Commissioner Fish
Subject: Tree Code (title 11) exemptions

Dear City Commissioners,

As a life-long citizen of Portland, I implore you to support the big tree protections until 2050 and eliminate exemptions for industrial/commercial zones and exemptions from the Title 11 Tree Density standards, also known as the tree planting requirements.

I am greatly concerned about the elimination of trees from these areas as their presence plays a vital role in the mitigation of environmental pollution and climate change impacts, protection of wildlife habitat, and the preservation of community health. If we are truly a "green" city, as so often claimed by ourselves and our neighbors, then protecting trees must be prioritized over ease of development. Protecting trees will not stop development, instead, a standard of considering the health of our environment will become a necessary procedure in economic progress, as it naturally should. We cannot afford to be inconvenienced by nature when the preservation of nature is our only hope in preventing both the decline of biodiversity and human health. These green spaces in Portland are important pockets of wild that help maintain what we citizens of Portland love about our city - the coexistence of the urban and natural. Dense tree canopies and large individual trees support hundreds of species of birds, both native and migratory, as well as countless other creatures that seek food and shelter as their homes become increasingly reduced and threatened by development. I live in one of the busiest neighborhood streets in Portland, yet the Douglas-fir in my backyard hosts a daily chorus of birds and squirrels. It is a refuge for wildlife as old buildings and houses are torn down all along the street to make room for new development. Areas of industrial development are often populated by low-income residents who cannot afford to put a buffer between themselves and the pollution and unsightliness of industrialization. Trees provide a refuge for them as well. Protecting trees and planting trees is one of the greatest things we can do to slow down the damage we are causing. We must do whatever we can to uphold that effort on a global scale and a local scale, starting with our own Tree Code.

Please support these protections and eliminate exemptions for environmental health and environmental justice.

Thank you,
Tari Gunstone

McClymont, Keelan

From: Barbara Stroud <bjstroud25@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 1:50 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Comment for Tree code votes on Thursday

Hello:

I understand that the city council is to take on the issue of protection of trees on land intended for private development and on commercial and industrial land in its Thursday meeting.

Our climate problems are critical and many can be addressed only by our government entities. As a private homeowner, I don't have much control - **WE NEED YOUR HELP**. If you allow developers and owners of non-residential land to cut down swaths of trees, how will you ever make that up? We need to know that you are representing the public in all of its interests.

Street and other newly planted trees **do not** compensate for 50 - 100 year old (or older) trees being cut down in huge swaths so that commercial interests can profit.

We need YOU to vote for protecting our trees now!

Barbara Stroud
7410 SW 76th Ave
Portland OR 97223

503-245-7048

McClymont, Keelan

From: Stephanie Christensen <steph.e.chris@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 12:16 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Re: Testimony for upcoming meeting regarding Portland's Tree Code

To whom it may concern,

I am writing today to ask Mayor Wheeler, and Commissioners Hardesty, Eudaly Fritz, and Fish to support changes in the Portland Tree Code. Specifically, I am asking that they support 1) Extending existing big tree protections on private development projects and 2) Support immediately removing the exemptions for industrial and commercial properties. Both private development properties, and industrial/commercial properties should be held to the same standards as the rest of the city. And for the record, both of these actions have been recommended by the Portland Urban Forestry Commission and the Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission.

Portland has a mixed history when it comes to protecting our old and large trees, and I would like to see the city move in a more positive direction - to better protect our old and large trees and green spaces, for the benefit of ALL it's citizens.

Thank you,

Stephanie Christensen

Portland, Oregon

McClymont, Keelan

From: Ted Labbe <ted.labbe@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 12:02 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Title 11 large tree amendment and add'l reforms

Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners:

I urge you to extend the sunset date on the large tree amendment of the City's Title 11 Tree Code. I support Commissioner Eudaly's suggestion to make the new sunset date December 31, 2050, or to simply make this amendment permanent. This is not a controversial action, and I am unclear why BDS is proposing a meager two-year extension for monitoring. The City regularly adopts development regulations without any similar short monitoring periods.

Alongside the extension of the sunset date, the PSC and UFC both recommended removing the Title 11 exemption for commercial and industrial zones. In addition, the UFC recommends reducing the tree size threshold for tree preservation or in-lieu fee programs from 36 inches to 20 inches diameter at breast height. The latter suggested reform is necessary to remove inconsistencies within the tree code and to extend its applicability in both development and non-development situations.

Please adopt these additional recommended reforms to Title 11 at this time. No additional study or delay by the City is warranted or necessary. Not one, but two City advisory committees are recommending removing the exemption to Title 11 for commercial and industrial lands. The PSC had their hearing with opportunity for public testimony in September, and subsequently the UFC had a hearing with opportunity for public testimony at their October and November meetings. There should be no concern around the public's opportunities to comment and weigh-in on these reforms.

What is concerning is the proper meeting notification before City Council on this topic. On Oct 28, 2019 the public notice indicated that Council would hear the additional PSC and UFC suggested reforms on December 5. On November 15, after the November 13 hearing on the large tree amendment sunset date extension, an update indicated that the Council was not planning to accept further public testimony on December 5. Subsequently, in a November 26 update we learned that the additional PSC- and UFC-recommended reforms would not be heard on December 5, with action delayed indefinitely. This complete set of reversals is documented online at: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bds/article/745330>

The latter set of actions represents a parliamentary parlor trick to delay deliberation and defer action on a set of carefully considered reforms to Title 11. I think these actions are undemocratic and inconsistent with the principles of open government that Portland prides itself on. Please consider these additional reforms as soon as feasible. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ted Labbe

--

Ted Labbe
 Executive Director, Urban Greenspaces Institute
 3011 NE Hoyt St Portland, OR 97232
ted.labbe@gmail.com
 503-758-9562

From: Paul Canarsky <paulcanarsky@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:06 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Cc: treesforlifeoregon@gmail.com
Subject: [Approved Sender] Changes to Title 11

To the Mayor and City Council Members:

I strongly, strongly urge you to extend the mitigation fees for trees 36 inches DBH and greater until at least the year 2050.

I also strongly, strongly urge you to take immediate action to remove exemptions for tree preservation and density standards on industrial and commercial lands. You have failed to revisit this issue for more than 3 years since a new industrial inventory was completed in 2016.

If you want to promote Portland and Oregon as ecological sanctuaries in a planet on fire, you cannot in good conscience keep destroying our canopy and allow this wholesale developmental destruction.

Take positive steps. Be leaders and begin to restore our degraded environment and put us on a path to a healthy future.

Sincerely,

Maurine Canarsky

1977 SE 22nd Ave.
Portland, OR 97214-4851
503-719-7332
canarskyomo@gmail.com

From: Kyna Rubin <krubin317@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 10:39 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: testimony for Dec. 5 tree hearing on exemptions for commercial/industrial areas

Dear City Commissioners:

I'm a founding member of Trees For Life, recently formed to help Portland's large-form trees live up to their full potential. I have already submitted written testimony for the Nov. 13 hearing regarding extending large tree mitigation fees. I support Commissioner Eudaly's proposal made that day to extend those fees until 2050. I state that here again, because it seems the vote on that item was delayed until the Dec. 5 hearing on a different item, eliminating fee exemptions for industrial/commercial zones.

Despite the fact that the City Council has changed course--for reasons unexplained--and will no longer be considering the exemptions item on Dec. 5, I very much support eliminating exemptions for industrial/commercial zones. In addition, I hope the city will end the exemptions from the Title 11 Tree Density standards. This standard requires developers to plant trees on sites that do not meet tree canopy targets. The tree density standards are especially important in areas with high density/intensity development, like commercial, industrial, and employment zones where existing sites often have less tree canopy to begin with. These areas are prone to urban heat island, and they are often located where many people live and work. These tree planting requirements are needed to help increase urban canopy, especially in tree-deficient areas, and to help meet Portland's tree canopy targets overall.

Sincerely,
Kyna Rubin
3232 NE 13th Ave
Portland

McClymont, Keelan

From: Sue Tarjan <soozyti@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2019 3:40 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: [User Approved] CORRECTION: City Council Comment for December 5, 2019, 3 PM meeting on two issues relating to trees in Portland

It is imperative that the city extend protections for large trees AND lift the exemptions from tree preservation and density standards in commercial and industrial properties.

Industrial and commercial properties should be held to the same standards as the rest of us here in Portland. Our tree canopy isn't just "for pretty." It provides habitat and food for wildlife; watershed protections for our rivers, streams, and sloughs; cooling shade in the summer; a carbon sink to help offset global warming and absorb pollutants; and psychological benefits for our citizens. Moreover, since industrial and commercial properties are more likely to be in poorer neighborhoods, it is of utmost important that these properties enhance their surroundings rather than detract from them in an equitable manner. We must move away from the destructive equation: Commercial/Industrial=Ugly/Polluted/Degraded. We—and they—can do better!

Sue and Jim Tarjan
7401 N Ivanhoe Street
Portland, OR 97203

From: Carole Onasch <leafyoasis@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2019 2:46 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Title 11

I wish to submit this testimony on behalf of tree preservation...Trees that do everything for us and need to survive. Title 11 is so damaging to our canopy and the integrity of Portland! It exempts developments specified industrial, commercial, and employment zones from requirements to preserve trees or to pay a fee in lieu of preservation, Title 11 also exempts developments in these same zones from requirements to plant trees on development sites, or pay fees in lieu of planting. This is unacceptable. Developers must consider trees.....We Need Them!

Thank You,

Carole Onasch
3305 SE 76th Ave.
Portland OR 97206

From: Sue Tarjan <soozyt@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2019 2:12 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: City Council Comment for December 5, 2020, 3 PM meeting on two issues related to trees in the city

It is imperative that the city extend protections for large trees AND lift the exemptions from tree preservation and density standards in commercial and industrial properties.

Industrial and commercial properties should be held to the same standards as the rest of us here in Portland. Our tree canopy isn't just "for pretty." It provides habitat and food for wildlife; watershed protections for our rivers, streams, and sloughs; cooling shade in the summer; a carbon sink to help offset global warming and absorb pollutants; and psychological benefits for our citizens. Moreover, since industrial and commercial properties are more likely to be in poorer neighborhoods, it is of utmost important that these properties enhance their surroundings rather than detract from them in an equitable manner. We must move away from the destructive equation: Commercial/Industrial=Ugly/Polluted/Degraded. We—and they—can do better!

Sue and Jim Tarjan
7401 N Ivanhoe Street
Portland, OR 97203

From: Mark Scantlebury <scantle@earthlink.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2019 11:05 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: FW: Commercial and Industrial Interests Need Trees Too

From: Mark Scantlebury <scantle@earthlink.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2019 10:28 AM
To: 'joann@portlandoregon.gov' <joann@portlandoregon.gov>; 'Chloe@portlandoregon.gov' <Chloe@portlandoregon.gov>; 'nick@portlandoregon.gov' <nick@portlandoregon.gov>; 'MayorWheeler@portlandoregon.gov' <MayorWheeler@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: Commercial and Industrial Interests Need Trees Too

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners Hardesty, Eudaly and Fish,

In a city and world facing climate change and global deforestation, every tree is an important tree. Consequently, it is time to make commercial and industrial landowners responsible for protecting trees just like private residential landowners. Everyone and every business needs trees. There are no exceptions.

As a voter (I voted for all four of you) and Portland resident since 1977, I am writing to ask you to:

- Extend existing big tree protections in private development situations.
- Take immediate steps to remove exemptions for Title 11 to ensure that industrial and commercial properties are held to the same tree preservation and density standards as everyone else in the City.

I think you will agree with me that it's time for City Council to remove the exemptions for protecting and mitigating for trees on industrial and commercial lands. You are the leaders we elected to make these kind of decisions. Sites, like the ones near Smith and Bybee Lakes and the Wapato Jail where the owner wants to remove trees, are sensitive environmental areas (such as next to rivers and streams). Protecting trees on these lands, in a city full of pavement, is a matter of environmental protection and responsibility.

We need to recognize our urban tree canopy for the vital tool it is in helping fight climate change impacts, improving human health, and keeping our city green. Industrial and commercial land owners should not be exempt from needing to protect trees. In fact, the opposite. They should be encouraged to support and grow our tree canopy and Portland's reputation as a leader in working to mitigate climate change.

I look forward to your decision on this matter and hope you will see the forest and the trees, protecting them for our future generations.

Sincerely yours,
Mark Scantlebury and Audrey Bergsma
1710 SW Westwood Ct
Portland, Oregon 97239
503-246-2918

From: Marianne Nelson <manelson316@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 30, 2019 6:52 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Portland's Tree Ordinance

Our planet is in peril. Just last week the *Emissions Gap Report*, the annual assessment produced by the UN Environment Program, said countries have failed to halt the rise of greenhouse gas emissions, despite repeated warnings from scientist. This bleak report said that we, in the US, were one of the biggest polluters alongside China.

WHAT CAN WE HERE IN PORTLAND DO????

One of the things we can do is to make it harder, MUCH HARDER, to cut down big trees. Trees mitigate climate change by sucking out carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, storing it away in their trunks and soil.

There are two things city council can do right now to mitigate climate change.

1. Extend protections for large trees in private development for at least another two years. I would even recommend increasing the fees charged when big trees are cut.
2. Remove exemptions for Title 11 to ensure that industrial and commercial properties are held to the same tree preservation and density standards as everyone else in the city.

Don't tell me that Portland is a 'Green City and you are trying to do everything you can for the city to mitigate climate change. Unless you vote for the above two things, I will not believe you. And I will not vote for any of you that do not vote for these in the next election.

Marianne Nelson
1644 SE Rex St.
Portland OR 97202

From: Susan Palmiter <spalmiter@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 30, 2019 3:40 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Cc: treesforlifeoregon@gmail.com
Subject: Tree exemption

Dear City Council members -

I am a home owner who was recently denied a tree cut permit and now I see the value of my sequoia and the carbon sink that my large tree provides. We need to have level playing ground for everyone who owns property in Portland!

I support extending the big tree mitigation fees until 2050. And I support eliminating exemptions for industrial/commercial zones. I also ask City Council to eliminate the exemptions from the Title 11 Tree Density standards, also known as the tree planting requirements. This standard requires developers to plant trees on sites that do not meet tree canopy targets. The Tree Density standards are especially important in areas with high density/intensity development, like commercial, industrial, and employment zones where existing sites often have less tree canopy to start with, that are prone to urban heat island, and where a great deal of people live and work. These tree planting requirements are needed to help increase urban canopy, especially in tree-deficient areas, and to help meet Portland's tree canopy targets overall.

Thank you for your attention to this.

***Susan Palmiter
4435 SW Carl Place***

--

Susan Palmiter
503-705-9144 (cell)

McClymont, Keelan

From: barbara stross <bcstross@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 30, 2019 9:58 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Fw: urban tree canopy

From: barbara stross
Sent: Saturday, November 30, 2019 9:55 AM
To: MayorWheeler@portlandoregon.gov <MayorWheeler@portlandoregon.gov>; joann@portlandoregon.gov <joann@portlandoregon.gov>; chloe@portlandoregon.gov <chloe@portlandoregon.gov>; nick@portlandoregon.gov <nick@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: urban tree canopy

I am writing to urge you to extend protections for big trees in private development situations; as well as to remove exemptions for Title 11.

One of the biggest factors that makes Portland an attractive place to live and work is its canopy of big trees. I live in S.E., where older single-family homes on standard lots with trees and gardens have been and continue to be replaced by apartment buildings, condominiums, and townhouses, build for density within a few feet of property lines and allowing no room for any big native conifers. Older big trees that were damaged decades ago in the Columbus Day storm, or that are reaching the end of their natural life cycle, are dying and not being replaced.

As climate change continues to result in hotter, drier summers, we continue to destroy the big trees that shade us. At the very least, we should hold industrial and commercial developers to the same tree preservation and density standards as others who are building in the city.

Thank you,
Barbara Stross
2939 S.E. 17th Avenue
Portland 97202

McClymont, Keelan

From: Susan Saphone <susansaphone2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, November 29, 2019 6:31 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Protect Big Trees

To the Mayor and Commissioners: Please remove exemptions for Title 11 to ensure that industrial and commercial properties be held to the same tree preservation and density standards as everyone else in the city. I'm aware that the current exemptions would have a significant effect on Moreland Woods, a two-acre property just east of Oaks Bottom Wildlife Preserve at 14th Avenue, with more than 20 mature Douglas-firs. These beautiful trees, some of which are nearly 80 years old, currently have limited protections under the law.

I call on Council to remove the exemptions for protecting and mitigating for trees on industrial and commercial lands, which are often located in sensitive environmental areas and near low-income neighborhoods. Protecting these trees is a matter of both environmental protection and environmental justice. Portland's urban tree canopy is an essential tool to fight the impact of climate change. Our city needs to lead the way towards improving community health and landscape resilience; industrial and commercial land owners should not be exempt.

Please vote to extend and strengthen big tree protections. It is the right thing to do for the health of the ecosystem of Moreland Woods and any other stand of trees. It is the historically correct thing to do for the climate.

Thank you. Sincerely,
Susan Haywood

McClymont, Keelan

From: A Shapiro <alice.shapiro2@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 29, 2019 5:52 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Tree protections

- I support extending the existing big tree protections in private development situations.
- I also support that the council take immediate steps to remove exemptions for Title 11 to ensure that industrial and commercial properties are held to the same tree preservation and density standards as everyone else in the City.
 - It is long past time for City Council to remove the exemptions for protecting and mitigating for trees on industrial and commercial lands.
 - These sites are often located in sensitive environmental areas (such as next to rivers and streams) and near low income neighborhoods. Protecting trees on these lands is a matter of both environmental protection and environmental justice.
 - Our urban tree canopy is an essential tool to fight climate change impacts and the entire City needs to play a role in improving community health and landscape resilience—industrial and commercial land owners should not be exempt.
 - The City Council has already delayed for far too long on this issue. This is causing significant damage to our environment and our most vulnerable neighborhoods.

I appreciate that the Council is attempting to limit fossil fuel infrastructure transport and storage in our City and is beginning to stand strong to Zenith and other fossil fuel companies who are violating the spirit and content of our environmental regulations. Protecting trees is also an essential part of climate protection and resilience.

Regards,
Alice Shapiro
7426 SE 21st Ave.
Portland 97202
541-999-7278

From: Christine O'Connor <cmoc714@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 29, 2019 5:44 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Protect Big Trees, Our First Line of Defense in the Climate Change Crisis

To the Mayor and Commissioners:

Please remove exemptions for Title 11 to ensure that industrial and commercial properties be held to the same tree preservation and density standards as everyone else in the city.

As a resident of the Sellwood-Moreland neighborhood, I'm aware that the current exemptions would have a significant effect on Moreland Woods, a two-acre property just east of Oaks Bottom Wildlife Preserve at 14th Avenue, with more than 20 mature Douglas-firs. These beautiful trees, some of which are nearly 80 years old, currently have limited protections under the law.

I call on Council to remove the exemptions for protecting and mitigating for trees on industrial and commercial lands, which are often located in sensitive environmental areas and near low-income neighborhoods. Protecting these trees is a matter of both environmental protection and environmental justice.

Portland's urban tree canopy is an essential tool to fight the impact of climate change. Our city needs to lead the way towards improving community health and landscape resilience; industrial and commercial land owners should not be exempt.

Please vote to extend and strengthen big tree protections. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christine O'Connor
1430 SE Duke Street

From: Ann B. Clarkson <abcphdpdx@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 29, 2019 4:05 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Protect Big Trees

[Feel free to customize this form to reflect your specifics.]

To the Mayor and Commissioners:

Please remove exemptions for Title 11 to ensure that industrial and commercial properties be held to the same tree preservation and density standards as everyone else in the city.

As a resident of the Sellwood-Moreland neighborhood, I'm aware that the current exemptions would have a significant effect on Moreland Woods, a two-acre property just east of Oaks Bottom Wildlife Preserve at 14th Avenue, with more than 20 mature Douglas-firs. These beautiful trees, some of which are nearly 80 years old, currently have limited protections under the law.

I call on Council to remove the exemptions for protecting and mitigating for trees on industrial and commercial lands, which are often located in sensitive environmental areas and near low-income neighborhoods. Protecting these trees is a matter of both environmental protection and environmental justice.

Portland's urban tree canopy is an essential tool to fight the impact of climate change. Our city needs to lead the way towards improving community health and landscape resilience; industrial and commercial land owners should not be exempt.

Please vote to extend and strengthen big tree protections. Thank you.

Sincerely,

[your name]

From: Colin Berry <colinb@sonic.net>
Sent: Friday, November 29, 2019 3:11 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Protect Big Trees

To the Mayor and Commissioners:

Please remove exemptions for Title 11 to ensure that industrial and commercial properties be held to the same tree preservation and density standards as everyone else in the city.

As a resident of the Sellwood-Moreland neighborhood, I'm aware that the current exemptions would have a significant effect on Moreland Woods, a two-acre property just east of Oaks Bottom Wildlife Preserve at 14th Avenue, with more than 20 mature Douglas-firs. These beautiful trees, some of which are nearly 80 years old, currently have limited protections under the law.

I call on Council to remove the exemptions for protecting and mitigating for trees on industrial and commercial lands, which are often located in sensitive environmental areas and near low-income neighborhoods. Protecting these trees is a matter of both environmental protection and environmental justice.

Portland's urban tree canopy is an essential tool to fight the impact of climate change. Our city needs to lead the way towards improving community health and landscape resilience; industrial and commercial land owners should not be exempt.

Please vote to extend and strengthen big tree protections. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Colin Berry
1250 SE Henry Street
Portland, OR 97202

From: Kimberly Kosa <kimberlykosa@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 29, 2019 11:23 AM
To: Wheeler, Mayor
Cc: Commissioner Hardesty; Commissioner Eudaly; Commissioner Fish; Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Tree mitigation exemptions (and extensions)

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I am writing to strongly urge you, city council and other decision makers to stop avoiding the issue of mitigation fees for tree removal on commercial and industrial lots in Portland. It's bad enough we may allow currently low mitigation fees on private lots to expire this year (I hope not and have weighed in on that issue as well) but the idea that we have waived fees for large tree removal on commercial and industrial zones for over 8 years is simply unconscionable. We are far past the "density crisis" that has allowed electeds to throw favors to developers (aka donors) without consequence; it's time to ensure we're protecting urban canopy by adding mitigation fees for tree removal on these lots.

Portland touts its "greenness" and increase in canopy over the past few years. However, this growth simply doesn't bear out in any but the most wealthy neighborhoods (like yours, no doubt). In areas like Piedmont, we are losing larger form trees at an alarming pace due to development (read: insufficient mitigation deterrents) as well as normal maintenance and disease. These trees functionally cannot be replaced due to the city's ever evolving restrictions on species and tree size for the sake of sidewalks, wires etc, as well as street layouts with incredibly narrow plantings strips. These factors are compounded by punishing heat and extreme sun exposure in summer, making it difficult for newly planted trees to survive. As a result, I can see forest park from my home as well as Vancouver. Don't tell me we have enough tree cover in Portland to allow exemptions—for any party (except maybe affordable housing projects). When it's 90-100 degrees in summer, this lack of cover is felt very keenly by my community. I can drive 15 mins south to richer neighborhoods and experience a 15 degree drop in temp.

Portland has lofty goals for tree cover, equity, and building ecosystem services and environmental resilience. But we are truly failing to implement any of these goals by focusing on wealthy neighborhoods, continuing to cater to businesses and developers in our regulations, and cutting budgets to key parts of city government overseeing tree cover in neighborhoods and parks.

I know there are many complicated and pressing issues taking your time, but I strongly urge you to embrace an (actually) green and more resilient future for Portland— and a legacy for your time as mayor—by pushing the strongest possible tree protection codes in this city; and you can start by implementing ANY for commercial and industrial land. Thank you!

Kim Kosa

From: c.gullion@q.com
Sent: Friday, November 29, 2019 11:19 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Title 11 exemptions: Please end exemptions for industrial/commercial zones

I support eliminating both Tree Density and Tree Preservation exemptions for industrial/commercial zones. The Tree Density standards are especially important in areas with high density/intensity development, like commercial, industrial, and employment zones where existing sites often have less tree canopy to start with.

Trees are vitally important temperature & runoff moderators, reducing our vulnerability to climate-change related rain bombs as well as moderating the urban heat island. The latter has the collateral benefit of reducing demand for air cooling, which in treeless areas will rise out of scale to increases in summer temperatures.

In addition, trees are a long term carbon storage device, whereas removing one starts a process of carbon release both through wood breakdown and soil degradation, the opposite of the City's expressed interest in reducing our carbon footprint.

Elimination of these exemptions is needed to help increase urban canopy, especially in tree-deficient areas, and to help meet Portland's tree canopy targets overall.

PLEASE ELIMINATE THE EXEMPTIONS. THOSE BUSINESSES WON'T WANT TO WORK OR LIVE IN PORTLAND ONCE IT'S A HOT TREELESS DESERT.

Thank you.
Christina M Gullion, PhD
326 SE 53rd Ave
Portland, OR 97215

From: veronica poklemba <ronnie717@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 28, 2019 8:54 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Title 11 exemptions/testimony for hearing

Please take immediate steps to remove exemptions for Title 11 to ensure that industrial and commercial properties are held to the same tree preservation and density standards as everyone else in the City.

Trees play an important role in supporting better air quality, and if anything, commercial/industrial property owners should be held to a higher standard - since many industries contribute more significantly to air pollution than any individual property.

Thank you,
Veronica Poklemba
4417 SE Crystal Springs Blvd.
Portland, OR. 97206

McClymont, Keelan

From: Linore Blackstone <llblackstone@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2019 5:45 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Tree protection and planting ordinance

Dear Portland Commissioners and Mayor, Well, the latest information I’ve had is that we in Portland do not protect our trees.

We exempt commerical construction and development contractors from responsibility for preserving perhaps the most important “beings” in our city. I recently walked by a construction site in NE Portland, Rose City Neighborhood, close to the Trader Joe’s. I found the the old tall fragrant pines to be but stumps, good for sitting, sliced as if their lives and stature meant nothing; they were in the way.

You have the responsibility to eliminate the exemptions for developers that allows the disregard of the trees and their contribution to beauty and life and flourishing. Andy Kerr, famous rabble-rousing Oregonian protector of wild lands and wild life said, “Proximity is not privilege.” When do you put more value on preservation instead of ownership? And the life these trees support?

It’s very very late to be careless about the life of trees.

W.S. Merwin, American poet, wrote in his terrifying poem, *The Last One*,

Well, they made up their minds to be everywhere because why not.
Everywhere was theirs because they thought so.
They with two leaves they whom the birds despise.
In the middle of the stones they made up their minds.
They started to cut.

Merwin has a more recent prose poem, *Unchopping a Tree*. It too is terrifying to those of us who see that there is little hope we humans will stop destroying all other life. The last line of the poem:

“Everything is going to have to be put back.”

Regards. Think hard about trees and what the conditions are for acting as you ought.

Linore Blackstone
llblackstone@comcast.net

1124

189795

McClymont, Keelan

From: Amrita V.K. Vatsal <amrita.vijaykumar@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2019 4:13 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Fwd: Vote to protect Portland City Trees

Dear City Council

I am a resident of Sellwood and a founding member of "Friends of Moreland Woods"
(www.morelandwoods.org)

We have been working for the past two years to protect ~25 trees that are between 30-50 inches in diameter on a private lot known to the neighborhood as Friends of Moreland Woods. The owners have submitted a plan to the city of Portland that is seeking to cut down 4-5 mature conifer trees (> 30 in) to build a parking lot. The owners (operators of a cemetery - Wilhelms) also want to sell the remainder of the lot with 20+ mature trees to a developer.

I urge the City Council to Extend Sunset Date of Certain Regulations for Tree Preservation in Development Situations in Title 11– and to Amend Exemption of Tree Regulations in Development Situations, Title 11

I also urge you to go further. It is not enough to allow developers to mitigate the loss of mature trees by planting new ones. A tree above a certain age and size should have protections that prevent its 'take'. Do NOT allow developers to simply plant new trees and cut down older mature trees. It takes 60 years for new sapling tree to sequester as much carbon, cumulatively as a 35 year old mature douglas fir tree!

Why would a progressive city like Portland allow the cutting down of 20+ mature conifer trees that are 60-80 years old only to build a parking lot?? WE CAN DO BETTER!

Please extend the current protections for older trees and IMPROVE on them. We have a single decade before we loose the battle against climate change, and every mature tree is needed.

Please do the right thing for our future!

Regards
Amrita

1126

189795

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Carol Poliak <cap823@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2019 11:29 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Cc: treesforlifeoregon@gmail.com
Subject: Portland Tree Code

Trees are life. Faced with climate change, the urban tree canopy of Portland is necessary to our very survival. Trees mitigate ozone-depletion. Trees also greatly enhance our urban experience and our sense of wellbeing within the city. My 3 year old granddaughter is currently learning the names of trees and climbing and hugging trees every day in inner SE Portland. Trees need our protection.

RIP, the end of big tree mitigation fees, and the exemptions for industrial/commercial zones all threaten our valuable tree canopy. Tree density standards must be protected and strengthened everywhere in Portland, especially in tree-deficient and population-heavy areas,
Thank you for doing the right thing to promote health and livability in Portland. I appreciate your work.
Sincerely,
Carol Poliak
1327 SE 32nd Place, Portland OR 97214

From: Albert Kaufman <albertkaufman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2019 11:01 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: For the Keeping Trees Standing hearing on 12.5

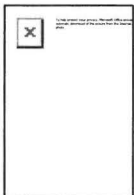
I support extending the big tree mitigation fees indefinitely. And I support eliminating exemptions for industrial/commercial zones. I also ask City Council to eliminate the exemptions from the Title 11 Tree Density standards, also known as the tree planting requirements. This standard requires developers to plant trees on sites that do not meet tree canopy targets. The Tree Density standards are especially important in areas with high density/intensity development, like commercial, industrial, and employment zones where existing sites often have less tree canopy to start with, that are prone to the urban heat island effect, and where a great deal of people live and work. These tree planting requirements are needed to help increase our urban canopy, especially in tree-deficient areas, and to help meet Portland's tree canopy targets overall.

Portland's Title 11 needs an overhaul ASAP.

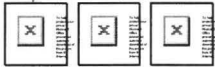
Sincerely,

Albert Kaufman
2250 SE 44th Ave.
Portland, OR 97215

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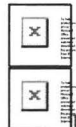


Albert Kaufman
Albertideation
503-358-0029 | albert@albertideation.com
<http://albertideation.com>



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Constant Contact free 60 day trial: [Sign Up Free](#)



Here's how I can help you

I help people think about their projects - add in social media and email marketing and I can help your project get out in front of people. Whether it's a Kickstarter or a...
by Albert Kaufman | 2014-02-10 | 1422

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Jynx Houston <jynxcdo@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 10:29 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: SUNSET DATE FOR TREE PRESERVATION

It is critically important to extend the sunset date forever to allow absolutely as many trees as possible to remain standing in Portland. Anything otherwise is shortsighted both for everyone's health

& the health & aesthetics of this far-too-rapidly over-developing city. I.e., over-developing of unaffordable housing.

Jynx Houston
7605 SE Lincoln St.
Portland, OR 97215

From: Kimberly Kosa <kimberlykosa@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2019 11:44 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Written testimony on Title 11 tree amendment extension

Kim Kosa
7106 N Commercial Ave
Portland OR 97217

Dear Members of the Portland City Council,

I'm writing regarding the proposed extension of the Title 11 amendment approved in 2016, offering stronger protections for large form trees potentially threatened by removal by developers.

I strongly urge the Council to extend this amendment for at least another two years, through the end of 2021, if not longer.

Furthermore, I would encourage City Council to consider increasing mitigation fees for removal of all trees over 12 inches in diameter moving forward. I believe this is an important piece to Urban Forestry achieving its stated goals of increased canopy cover in Portland. Now that the "density crisis" is over and newly developed rental units sit empty all over the city, there seems to be very little reason to allow developers to pay relatively little to take down older-growth trees, and as just another nominal element of their project budget.

Lastly, I encourage UF and City Council to embrace PSC's proposal to disallow exceptions to mitigation fees for properties with industrial zoning, as an experiment, for 2 years.

Please take action to protect Portland's large trees -- for the benefit of our communities and environment -- rather than prioritizing the bottom lines of developers.

Thank you,

--

Kimberly M. Kosa

**TESTIMONY BEFORE PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL ON LARGE TREE
AMENDMENT, NOVEMBER 13, 2019 4:20 PM**

October 21, 2019 letter from Chair Vivek Shandas to Mayor and City Commissioners

UFC approved 2 separate motions at its October 17, 2019 meeting after taking public testimony:

Presenter: Bruce Nelson, Urban Forestry Commissioner

First: The Urban Forestry Commission recommends the following amendments to Title 11. These recommendations are consistent with those approved by the Planning and Sustainability Commission:

- a. Amend Title 11 to extend the sunset date of those certain regulations regarding tree preservation for private trees in development situations, from December 31, 2019 to December 31, 2021; and
- b. Amend Title 11 to remove the exemption for tree preservation in the development situations for sites zoned 1H, 1G1, EX and CX (11.50.040.B.1) with the removal of the exemption to sunset on December 31, 2021.

Second: The Urban Forestry Commission recommends that, should a climate emergency be declared by City Council, the following code amendments shall be effective for the duration of the declaration:

- a. The sunset clause regarding tree preservation for private trees in development situations (11.50.040.C) shall be removed; and
- b. The 36" DBH threshold for inch-for-inch mitigation shall be reduced to 20" DBH (Table 50-1); and
- c. The 36" DBH threshold for required preservation or fee-in-lieu payment shall be reduced to 20" DBH. (11.50.040.C.1.b)

Background:

1. Addressing this sunsetting large tree mitigation fee in lieu of preservation was identified by Urban Forestry Commission as one of its priorities in a February 2019 planning meeting.
2. This particular issue has been an agenda item of varying lengths at Urban Forestry Commission monthly meetings in January, February, March, April, June, July, August, September and October.
3. So how many trees 36" and larger DBH does Portland have?
 - a. neighborhood street tree inventories taken in Portland 2011 -2016 show only 7% of street trees had 24"DBH or larger; Street Tree Inventory Report City of Portland 2017 <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/638773> (Figure 16 p. 21)
 - b. developed Parks tree inventories done 2017 – 2019 show 13.3% with DBH of 36" or larger with 24% of the tree species planted in parks reach a DBH of 36" or larger (74 species out of 305 species); Portland Park Trees <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/433143#parks> Pull up the Excel file of Park Tree Inventory and sort for 36" or larger DBH trees
 - c. 66% of the species in the Portland Heritage trees collection have a 36" DBH or larger, comprising 85 species out of a total of 129 species; Portland Heritage Tree Guidebook <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/441738> pages 1-7, using circumference divided by 3.142)
 - d. Examples of trees that will never get to have a 36" DBH in Portland include Japanese maples, crab apples, most flowering cherries, dogwoods, fruit trees of any sort, redbuds, most magnolias, most native deciduous trees, and more. Most tree species just don't ever get to 36" DBH .

4. 2015 Portland and Multnomah County adopted a Climate Action Plan in which Objective 13 calls for “Expand the urban forest canopy to cover at least one-third of the city with a minimum of canopy cover of 25% in each residential neighborhood and 15% of the central city, commercial and industrial areas.”

Portland Climate Action Plan

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/article/531984>

5. Street Tree surveys for different neighborhoods conducted between 2011 and 2016 found only 16 of the 59 neighborhoods in which trees surveyed to have neighborhood canopy coverage of 25% or more.

(personal review Street Tree Inventories done for each neighborhood as part of Street Tree Inventory Reports compiled by Urban Forestry)

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/709566>

6. Conclude that removing healthy large trees will not help us reach our desired canopy goals that are part of the Climate Action Plan

In closing I would like to summarize my testimony in the following manner:

36" is a Start

36 inches DBH is a large tree

36" You see, You see!

It takes many years to grow so tall and wide;

To quietly clean our air, our Portland outside;

To absorb rain water to slow its eventual flow

To calm Portlanders, from the go-go-go.

36" DBH in size

If we are wise

We'll try to keep you in place.

For the climate change we now face

Calls for help here, now and forever

For all of us, together, together, together.

36 inches is a start!

From: Suzanne Sherman <suzanne@fatcathatsandsacks.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 3:56 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony; Commissioner Fish; Commissioner Fritz; Commissioner Hardesty; Commissioner Eudaly; Wheeler, Mayor
Subject: Extend Protections for Portland's Large Trees

Good Day,

I'm writing in support of continuing protections in Title 11 for our City's large and mature trees and am asking that you extend the "big tree amendment" for another two years. I also ask that you take steps in December to remove exemptions for Title 11 to ensure that industrial and commercial properties are held to the same tree protection and planting standards as everyone else in the City. Commercial development going on in Portland has wiped out way too many of our mature trees already due to these exemptions. Please hold developers to the same standards as everyone else. Our urban tree canopy is essential to offset climate change impact and it provides food, shelter and beauty for all of us living in the city including our urban wildlife.

Thank you,
Suzanne Sherman
Mt Tabor Resident

Sent from my iPad

From: Catherine Elaine Mushel <cmushel@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 2:45 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: testimony regarding extending tree preservation requirement
Attachments: 36 pres. extend 2021.docx

Dear Madame Clerk:
Please forward this testimony to the Mayor and Council members.
Thank you very much,
Catherine Mushel

From: Anthony Antoville and Anne Conrad-Antoville <a2antoville@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 10:11 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Testimony for November- Please extend Portland's Big Tree Ammendment

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Portland Commisioners,

- Please Vote to extend the “big tree amendment” for another two years.
- Our urban tree canopy is an essential tool to fight climate change impacts and the entire City needs to play a role in improving community health and landscape resilience.
- Council **must** take steps to remove exemptions for Title 11 in December to ensure that industrial and commercial properties are held to the same tree protection and planting standards as everyone else in the City.

Thank you,
Kristin Conrad Antoville and Anthony Antoville
Portland

McClymont, Keelan

From: Carole Onasch <leafyoasis@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2019 3:33 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: November 13 City Council meeting

Hello....I'm a Tree Lover and Our Canapy has been so depleted by development.

I feel very strongly that Portland/Oregon/The World needs all the trees we have left to survive!

PLEASE take care of Our Friends, the Trees and extend the time period that developers must pay the mitigations fee to cut down any trees of 36" in diameter or greater. Also!....please reduce the diameter of the trees that the developers must pay for from 36" to 20 inches. These changes would help support Portlands Tree canapy.

Thank You,

Carole Onasch.

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

McClymont, Keelan

From: Roberta Jortner <robertajortner@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2019 9:37 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Re: Comments on 1052 TIME CERTAIN: 4:20 PM – Amend Trees In Development Situations Code...

Dear Karla,

I neglected to include my address on the memo I just sent, so for the record it is 7201 SE 36th Ave. Portland, OR 97202.

Best,

Roberta Jortner

On Mon, Nov 11, 2019 at 9:29 AM Roberta Jortner <robertajortner@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Karla,

Attached are comments for the Council. Hope all is well with you!

Roberta Jortner (former BPS staff)

Memorandum

TO: Mayor Ted Wheeler and Commissioners of the Portland City Council

FROM: Roberta Jortner

DATE: November 11, 2019

SUBJECT: Proposed Extension of Amendments to Title 11, Trees, Chapter 11.50, Trees in Development Situations, Tree Preservation Requirements for Private Trees

Greetings Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners. I am writing in support of the Bureau of Development Services (BDS) proposal to extend Amendments to Title 11, Ch 11.50 until December 2021. I encourage the City Council to approve this extension and call for data collection as recommended in the Bureau of Development Services memorandum to the Planning and Sustainability Commission dated August 23, 2019, and as elaborated upon below.

As a former City staff person who helped develop the original Title 11, Trees, I believe that the 2016 City Council-adopted code amendments under consideration for extension are a positive step toward improved tree preservation on development sites, and improved support for City public health, livability, and climate change-related goals and policies.

As BDS pointed out, and as echoed in the draft ordinance before you, the data collected so far indicate that the code amendments may indeed be having a positive effect on preservation of large trees on development sites. However, BDS also notes that more time and data are needed to shed light on remaining questions and to determine if the amended regulations should remain in place, be amended further, or sunset. This is also the perspective of the Planning and Sustainability Commission and the Urban Forestry Commission which have both submitted letters in support of the extending the Ch 11.50 amendments.

I recommend a focus on the following data collection during the next two years:

- 1. Collecting preservation and removal data for all trees subject to the Tree Preservation standards, namely non-exempt trees 12-20" dbh, 20-36" dbh, and 36" dbh and larger.** BDS suggests collecting data on the preservation and removal of non-exempt trees 20"-36" diameter at breast height (dbh) on development sites, in addition to monitoring preservation/removal of trees 36" dbh or larger. While I agree with this recommendation, I urge the City Council to call for collecting tree preservation and removal data for all trees subject to this code section, namely non-exempt trees 12-20" dbh, 20-36" dbh, and 36" dbh and larger. It is important to encourage the preservation of medium-sized trees as well as large trees which provide important public health, economic, and ecological benefits, including mitigating and adapting to climate change. Maintaining tree age (and species) diversity is critical to the health of our urban forest infrastructure.

2. **Collecting data to correlate tree preservation and removal with the size of development sites.** I support BDS's suggestion to collect data with which to correlate tree preservation and removal with the size of development sites. This way we can see if trees are being preserved on small sites in more densely developed/developing areas, as well as on larger sites in lower density areas. We can also see if on smaller development sites, medium sized trees are being preserved more frequently than large trees.

3. **Evaluating the exemption for certain affordable housing projects from inch-for-inch tree mitigation requirements.** BDS notes that the Ch 11.50 amendments under consideration for extension include a waiver for certain affordable housing projects from the inch-for-inch mitigation requirements applied when on-site 36" dbh or larger trees are removed. While clearly it is important to encourage affordable housing, it is also important for those housing projects and associated residents and neighborhoods to have trees and other green infrastructure. I am concerned about the unintended consequences of these exemptions on the livability of affordable housing projects and associated residents and neighborhoods. As BDS suggests, additional data is warranted to assess how the Title 11 waivers relate to other waivers for affordable housing projects, how the Title 11 waivers may be affecting lower-income residents, and to determine if the Title 11 exemptions are consistent with City policies and regulatory approaches.

Finally, I urge the City Council to direct BDS and Portland Parks and Recreation Urban Forestry staff to jointly initiate a conversation with development representatives and other stakeholders, including members of the Urban Forestry Commission. Together they would identify additional options to better encourage and remove barriers to preservation of trees on development sites.

Thank you for your consideration.

McClymont, Keelan

From: Kyna Rubin <krubin317@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2019 2:27 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: testimony for Nov. 13, 4:20 pm hearing on extension of tree mitigation fees

Nov. 10, 2019

Dear City Council Members:

I am a Friends of Trees Volunteer Neighborhood Coordinator, the founder of a NE neighborhood tree team, the “tree reporter” for my neighborhood newsletter, a naturalist tour leader for school children at Hoyt Arboretum and at Portland Audubon, and I have helped form Trees For Life, a new group whose mission is to help Portland’s large-form trees reach their full potential. I list these activities to indicate my deep commitment to trees and to preserving them for the countless benefits they provide us.

I am submitting this testimony today because I believe there is a disconnect between the City of Portland’s stated green goals and Title 11 as it is currently written and enforced (or not). A specific example of this is the sunseting of the current mitigation fees that developers pay to cut down trees 36-inch diameter and larger.

I strongly support not only extending the mitigation fees beyond Dec. 31, when they are scheduled to expire, but saving more trees by lowering the DBH threshold from the current 36 inches to 20 inches and making this standard permanent. Lowering the threshold size will save many, many more trees from the chopping block, including large-form trees that haven’t yet reached over 36 inches DBH but will do so if given time and space to grow. These large-form trees give us the most environmental services bang for the buck. They are an essential element of our city’s green infrastructure and should be treated as such by Title 11.

Moreover, the proposal to reduce the tree diameter threshold is warranted with or without a City Council declaration of a climate emergency. [Researchers at Reed College and PSU](#) and [at the Oregon Department of Forestry](#) have shown that native trees such as Western redcedar are already suffering the effects of long-term drought, even in our forests, where for centuries they have enjoyed perfect conditions in which to thrive. We are in climate crisis now whether the city declares so or not.

Kyna Rubin

3232 NE 13th Avenue

Portland, OR 97212

McClymont, Keelan

From: Aaron Choate <aaronchoate@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2019 8:11 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Big Tree Amendment Extension & industrial/commercial tree protection

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

We urge you to please vote on November 13th to extend the “big tree amendment” for another two years. Our urban tree canopy is an essential tool for fighting climate change impacts and the entire City needs to play a role in improving community health and landscape resilience. It is also imperative that the Council take steps to remove exemptions for Title 11 in December to ensure that industrial and commercial properties are held to the same tree protection and planting standards as everyone else in the City. These are important social and climate justice issues.

Thank you!

-Aaron Choate & Family-
SE Portland

From: unclebob@gorge.net
Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2019 6:03 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Please Extend the Big Tree Amendment

Dear City Council,

I am very fond of Portland's livability. Part of that stems (get it?) from trees which provide so many benefits I will not list them for you. For all of those reasons, I implore you to vote to extend the "big tree amendment" for another two years. It is shameful that developers with very loose ties to the city other than mining it for dollars are allowed to strip it of livability by logging even our eldest trees which are essential tools to fight climate change impacts right when the entire City needs to play a role in improving community health and landscape resilience.

Council **must** take steps to remove exemptions for Title 11 in December to ensure that industrial and commercial properties are held to the same tree protection and planting standards as everyone else in the City.

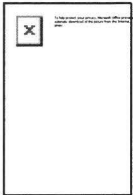
Thank you,

John Wood

From: Albert Kaufman <albertkaufman@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2019 10:19 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Extend Sunset Date of Certain Regulations for Tree Preservation in Development Situations

Take a moment. For the trees. Write to cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov I agree with the Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission and the Urban Forestry Commission that the amended regulations to Title 11 be extended forever (they're actually asking for 2 years in their recommendation). I also encourage the City Council to revise Title 11 (trees) to protect our city's canopy. This would be money and time well spent. Title 11 does not do enough to protect trees which are a vital part of our lives. Thank you. Albert Kaufman.

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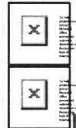


Albert Kaufman
 Albertideation
 503-358-0029 | albert@albertideation.com
<http://albertideation.com>



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Here's how I can help you

I help people think about their projects - add in social media and email marketing and I can help your project get out in front of people. Whether it's a Kickstarter or a...
 by Albert Kaufman | 2014-02-10 | **1406**

Signature powered by WiseStamp

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Jynx. Houston <jynxcdo@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2019 5:14 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: TREEP PRESERVATION

I am writing to urge the City Council to extend the date of certain regulations for TREE PRESERVATION in development situations.

In addition, I urge the City Council to step up its efforts in every way possible to protect & preserve all trees in the city of Portland.

Jynx Houston
7605 SE Lincoln St.
Portland 97215

Sent from my iPhone

Moore-Love, Karla

From: TERESA MCGRATH <bone1953@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2019 3:14 PM
To: Wheeler, Mayor; Council Clerk – Testimony; Commissioner Fritz; Commissioner Hardesty; Commissioner Fish; Commissioner Eudaly
Subject: tree code

<https://www.wweek.com/news/city/2019/10/23/the-city-council-plans-to-review-an-exemption-to-portlands-tree-code-but-too-late-to-save-trees-at-the-star-crossed-wapato-jail/?fbclid=IwAR3GckQV6ATlgtQA6Mc60lZYrp-ntlk7IDKwZNSB008kKNR1jQQ9Ng6PVmk>

it's sad to see this tree stand be wiped out with the jail....

another reason to strengthen the code during challenging climate change

we urge you to save these trees regardless of the regulations, it's the right thing to do

teresa mcgrath and nat kim