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To: [Planning and Sustainability Commission](#)
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Subject: Title 11 Amendments
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As one of the firewise committee co chairpersons for the FNA south, I would like to submit this testimony. Because I spend hours with other team members going door to door in our neighborhood trying to get people to agree to a FREE assessment from Portland Fire Department I get to hear a lot from residents. I would like to share some ideas.

If we are going to make progress of any significance on mitigation of fire danger we need three things to happen.

1. Ease of process. The difficulty and the time the permitting process takes is stopping people. For many residents just getting on the computer to start is a big ask.
2. No cost permitting. The cost of permitting even if it is only getting an arborist or having an arborist make a plan is for many cost prohibitive.
3. A commitment by the city to understand the dilemma faced by the people living next to, in and around Forest Park and WUI lands and have bureau wide commitments to simplify codes and work cooperatively with the citizens.

Our proposal: Portland Fire Department makes assessments accompanied by an urban forester or tree permitting specialist. After the recommendations from the fire department the arborist can issue a permit for a limited area around the home. How hard could this be if bureaus cooperated? The next day people could start fire mitigation efforts.

We have had great cooperation from the Parks Department and Portland Fire Department and Tualatin Valley Fire Department. We would like that from both Urban Forestry and PSC. As one of our most helpful city partners in this endeavor said “the situation on the ground has changed and so must we.”

This climate crisis is barreling down on us like freight train and you need to help us please. Ann Ruttan , FPN Firewise committee