

February 14, 2022

To Mayor Wheeler and the Portland City Commissioners:

I am writing to strongly support the adoption of the EZone Map Correction Update Package, before you on Wednesday, February 16, 2022. This EZone Update does not change policy. It is simply an update of the City's own EZone maps to ensure that the City works from the most current and scientifically rigorous inventory of natural resources deserving EZone protection in Portland. Relying on old, outdated, and technologically inferior data and maps is not helpful for meeting existing City EZone policy goals, meeting City commitments to the State of Oregon and others to adequately protect natural resources, or for treating the interested public and affected landowners fairly and transparently.

Further, this Update Package is the product of an extensive, 3-year public process involving more than 600 on-the-ground site visits with concerned landowners, and 11 public and lengthy hearings and worksessions before your Planning and Sustainability Commission. Throughout, this process has been thorough, scientifically rigorous, public, transparent, and responsive. It is a model for how this kind of process should be done, and deserves your support at this time.

As a longtime resident of Portland, and a former member and President of the City of Portland Planning Commission, I am proud of the way that you and your predecessors have used planning to make Portland a better city than it was. The work of your Bureau of Planning and Sustainability has been and continues to be essential to the livability and resilience of Portland. The EZone Update Package is an example of the high quality work done by the City. Now it's your responsibility to take the next step to adopt the package, update the inventory, put your own adopted EZone policies on firmer footing, and ensure a better future for the natural resources in our midst crucial to so much of our well-being and sense of place.

Thanks for your time now and commitment to Portland's future. Please contact me should you have any questions about my comments.

Sincerely,

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