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Testimony to the Planning and Sustainability Commission on the Planning Commission Code Amendments, Proposed Draft

The proposal removes the term "Sustainability" from the Commission's name and from its charge. It says that "Sustainability does not need to be listed separately". I think this is implicitly a proposition that the Sustainability is no longer something that Portland and Portlanders care about. I think that proposition is clearly wrong and that the Commission should not be discharged of this duty. The proposal also removes the climate action plan from the Commission's purview. I am convinced that the citizens of Portland want more attention paid to climate issues, not less. The background section says that "A future project will amend City code to create a separate body focused on sustainability and climate. I believe both climate issues and Sustainability are a fundamental part of Planning and should not be separated from it. In any case, the Planning Commission should continue to fulfill this responsibility until another "body" is created to take it over. Otherwise these concerns will not receive a attention from any city agency.

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