

Chris Smith

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

I have the unique perspective of being the last person appointed as a Planning Commissioner before the merger of the two commissions, then serving for 11 years on the Planning and Sustainability Commission. I believe that during the creation of the Portland Plan and then the Comprehensive Plan (and its Title 33 implementation), the perspective of sustainability was invaluable in combination with the more traditional land use and transportation planning perspective. My experience is that during the initial years after the merger the Commission was effectively involved in reviewing and making recommendations on many of the City's climate and sustainability initiatives. In the later years of my service staff appeared to have less appetite to bring climate and sustainability issues to the Commission. If we proceed with separating the functions again, it is vital that a community oversight body for climate and sustainability issues be established quickly and that it be empowered to be effective in its role.

Testimony is presented without formatting.