

Portland City Council Agenda
Written Testimony - Item 1012/989

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
1	989	Ariana Scipioni, Urban Conservationist, West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District	Support with changes		Yes 11/08/24 12:25 PM
2	989	Gregory Shimanovsky	Support	I enjoy seeing the trees around the city, watching them grow with the changing of the seasons these past 25 years is whats keeping me bound to my home state. Mighty old oaks, conifers, maples are my higher power in sobriety, watching them overcome the climate change has thought me resilience. I want to see these giants for future generations to see, hug and baske under in their shade on hot days and stay drier on those rainy days.	No 11/08/24 4:49 PM
3	989	Anonymous	Support	Quadruple down on how is spent planting and maintaining trees, we need to re-wild Portland and reduce the urban heat island effect by preserving and restoring our tree canopy. Property owners should be incentivized to tear down their driveways and impervious soil to plant trees, the city needs to make its trees more shaded, and extend sidewalks to make roads more narrow and correspondingly plant massive trees. We need shade, not asphalt.	No 11/09/24 12:21 PM
4	989	Anonymous	Support	I fully support continuing the practice of protecting trees of diameters larger than 20". They provide virtually irreplaceable climate benefits for all of us and should not be taken down to make way for development or other non-safety reasons.	No 11/09/24 3:05 PM
5	989	Mike McCaffrey	Support with changes	This amendment should not only be made part of the official code, but it should also be expanded to encompass more trees under threat of being removed. Since affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones that make up 80 percent of Portland's planned housing growth are excluded from the requirements, many large trees are not protected at a time when the city desperately needs more tree cover. Perhaps consider discounted rates for those projects instead of a blanket exclusion, and ensure that money paid under this program is directed to efforts that increase our overall tree-cover.	No 11/09/24 4:17 PM
6	989	ziven szymański	Support	permanently adopt the Large Tree Amendment please. thank you for your labor.	No 11/10/24 9:23 PM
7	989	Amy Daileda	Support	It is essential to keep the protections for our largest trees. Large trees are one of the most valuable resources we have for mitigating climate change, storing carbon, preserving nature's wisdom, lowering air temperatures, supporting wildlife, cleaning our air, and keeping our cities an enjoyable place to live. There is no way to replace this precious resource other than through much time and many generations. It is urgent that you continue to protect our largest trees! Thank you.	No 11/11/24 8:09 AM
8	989	Jordana L.	Support with changes	Trees do not have voices. They are home to many animals that live within them - birds and squirrels, bats and owls. Large trees provide opportunity for Portlanders to experience the natural world in their neighborhoods without needing to travel. We have an opportunity to protect these entities for our current population and future generations. They took many years to grow and only a few hours to cut down. When they are gone they are gone. With it the animals that depend on them, our connection to the natural world, additional shade protection mitigating the impacts of climate change and historical markers of a neighborhood. Please do not forget to protect the trees when keeping a housing growth mindset. Both can co-exist. Here is a video I made to reflect the loss of large trees in my neighborhood. https://youtu.be/4HPJlzAznBY?si=jX4NSv2IC1TK2ufY - I support additional protections as outlined by Trees for Life - https://www.treesforlifeoregon.org/our-desired-tree-code-changes	No 11/11/24 8:14 AM
9	989	Mallory Pratt, Concordia Tree Team	Support	As a member of the Concordia Tree Team and a long-standing volunteer with Friends of Trees, I urge that this Council support the Tree Preservation Standards Code to be adopted without any sunset date. The inexorable climate crisis our generation and the ones that follow will be experiencing more than justifies the need for larger form trees to be preserved and new ones nurtured if our urban landscape is to be bearable for human habitation. Trees are ecological infrastructure that are cheaper than electrically-powered air conditioning and help mitigate the CO2 levels in our atmosphere. Plus they help regulate human behavior, which in a searing- hot summer in a densely-populated city is a public safety measure that costs less than more police.	No 11/11/24 10:50 AM



WEST MULTNOMAH
Soil & Water Conservation District

Council Clerk
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 130
Portland, OR 97204

Submitted via <https://www.portland.gov/council-clerk/submit-written-testimony> on 11/8/2024

Subject: Support for the City of Portland's Large Tree Amendment

Dear Members of Portland City Council,

West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District is a publicly funded local government special district whose mission is to provide resources, information, and expertise to inspire people to actively improve air and water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and soil health. We are writing to express our strong support to remove the sunset clause for the Title 11 Large Tree Amendment. Removing the clause is a vital step toward the continued preservation of Portland's urban canopy, which plays a critical role in mitigating effects of climate change, improving air quality, and enhancing the overall quality of life in our city. In the future, when the city updates the Urban Forest Plan, we propose the following recommendations to strengthen our green infrastructure.

1. Inclusion of Small Lots 3,000 feet and larger in the amendment

It is essential that the Large Tree Amendment includes tree protection when small lots are developed. Many small lots are in neighborhoods with lower-income residents, who often experience disproportionate environmental burdens such as poor air quality and lack of green spaces. Research has shown that urban tree canopies are crucial for reducing urban heat island effects and providing environmental and health benefits, especially in marginalized communities¹. By excluding small lots from this code, we risk perpetuating environmental inequities, leaving some communities without the benefits of mature trees. Ensuring that tree protection measures apply to small lot sizes will promote distributive justice and ensure that all Portland residents can enjoy the benefits of a healthy urban canopy.

2. Lower the Large Tree permit threshold to 12 inches diameter at breast height (DBH)

Given the documented decline in Portland's tree canopy, it is crucial that we take more proactive measures to protect our urban forest. We recommend lowering the threshold for the non-nuisance large trees to 12 inches DBH. These trees contribute significantly to canopy cover and provide important environmental services, including carbon sequestration, stormwater management, and habitat provision.

In conclusion, we fully support Urban Forestry staff's recommendation to protect and enhance our urban tree canopy by removing the sunset clause for the Large Tree Amendment. We urge staff to consider these additional measures when updating the Urban Forest Plan to ensure that the Large Tree amendment is both equitable and effective. By including

small lots and lowering the ordinance diameter threshold, we can better protect our urban forest and promote environmental justice for all Portland residents. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and your consideration of these critical issues. We look forward to continuing to see the positive impact the Large Tree Amendment has on our community.

Sincerely,



Terri Preeg Riggsby

Board Chair and Zone 5 Director

cc: West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors

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10	989	Rachel Day	Support	<p>This matter is very important to me. The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development.</p> <p>This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth.</p> <p>Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.</p>	No	11/11/24 12:22 PM
11	989	Anonymous	Support	Vote YES. Our urban tree canopy is an essential tool to fight climate change impacts, as well as providing beauty, health, summer cooling and, very important to me, habitat for animals. Local insects, birds, mammals and reptiles all rely on a healthy canopy.	No	11/11/24 12:35 PM
12	989	Jill Spencer, Member Bird Alliance of Oregon	Support	I strongly agree with the Bird Alliance of Oregon that it is crucial to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.	No	11/11/24 12:38 PM
13	989	Anonymous		As climate change continues, we need to do everything we can to preserve trees in Portland for habitat, their cooling properties and carbon capture	No	11/11/24 12:38 PM
14	989	Katrina Alfano	Support		No	11/11/24 12:38 PM
15	989	Susan Weedall	Support	Please extend the large tree amendment to help mitigate excessive heat, stormwater runoff, and poor air quality.	No	11/11/24 12:39 PM
16	989	Zhou Fang	Support	We need our trees in Portland more than ever.	No	11/11/24 12:47 PM
17	989	michelle johnson	Support	I am writing to urge a yes vote on the large tree code to make the existing requirements permanent. This policy is recommended by both the Planning Commission and the Urban Forestry Commission. It is something we can do to mitigate the problems associated with climate change. This has been shown to have a limited effect on new housing development and is best for our neighborhoods and our communities.	No	11/11/24 12:49 PM
18	989	Sarah Daegling	Support	We need to protect the urban tree canopy! For people living in Portland and for the birds that need this habitat. We can work to mitigate harms and threats of climate change by extending this preservation.	No	11/11/24 12:51 PM
19	989	Kelsey Parada, public school teacher	Oppose	Please protect Portland's dwindling tree canopy. It is vital for habitat and birds! Without it, we are not Portland. Thank you for your support.	No	11/11/24 12:57 PM
20	989	Anonymous	Support		No	11/11/24 1:01 PM
21	989	Elizabeth Domike	Support	Please vote yes to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, the large trees are so important for humans and wildlife in Portland.	No	11/11/24 1:16 PM
22	989	Tony Martinez		Please keep the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code. It's one of the features of Portland that is so beautiful, especially in Fall.	No	11/11/24 1:21 PM
23	989	Amie Wexler	Support	Please vote to support making the large tree code permanent so that we are better protecting our city from heat disasters and climate change. Studies show that it has not prevented affordable housing from being built. The large tree code is crucial for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy. Thank you for supporting this amendment.	No	11/11/24 1:28 PM

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24	989	Richard Emery	Support	I stand with the Bird Alliance of Oregon as follows: The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy. 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. City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development. This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth. Please vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.	No	11/11/24 1:32 PM
25	989	Ezra Chong	Support	Portland is home to some of the most uniquely special habitats in the country and we should all be in support of preserving these natural areas the way they are, if not doing more to help them thrive! Wildlife all across the country is disappearing at an alarming rate and the city should be going above and beyond to take care of what we still have.	No	11/11/24 1:36 PM
26	989	Nina Poliakoff		Vote YES! We need to protect our large trees. We need to protect smaller trees so they can grow to be our big trees. We must increase our canopy to provide homes for wildlife and help shade our communities during the heatwaves to come.	No	11/11/24 1:44 PM
27	989	Sally TerBeck	Support	We need as many trees as we can get to help protect us from climate change. The summers are already much hotter for a much longer time than when I moved here 25 years ago.	No	11/11/24 1:46 PM
28	989	Luna McGrath	Support	Our trees need to be protected. They are essential for maintaining equilibrium not only as climate change worsens, but right now as well. To view ourselves as separate or above from these trees is an individualist viewpoint that will not survive the 21st century. To kill these trees is to kill a part of ourselves.	No	11/11/24 2:03 PM
29	989	Anonymous	Support	Research shows that mature trees are more resilient than newly planted ones, and provide carbon reduction benefits and other ecosystem benefits that will literally take a human lifetime for newly planted trees to equal, to protecting them is especially important. The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy. 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. City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development. This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth. Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.	No	11/11/24 2:05 PM

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30 989	K. Ober	Support	<p>Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.</p> <p>We, personally, have a benefit of a large shade tree directly in our backyard. It has provided much needed help with the heat over the past few summers. Plus sustains the quality of life of many of the neighborhood wildlife that depend on it. Though we are on the Westside just outside Portland, we're all connected. And I cannot imagine how sweltering and barren it would be to lose too many big trees in Portland for those living in Portland and those of us who visit often. Not to mention the impact on necessary wildlife.</p> <p>The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy. The entire City needs to play a role in improving community health and landscape resilience. City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development. This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth.</p> <p>Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission. It's working to preserve our vital tree canopy for all.</p>	No	11/11/24 2:08 PM
31 989	Emily M	Support	As a resident of the Lents neighborhood for 7+ years, my neighbors and I have experienced direct impacts on our health and wellbeing during Portland's "heat domes" (extreme heat events caused by the ongoing climate crisis). The rising summer temperatures perpetuate already dangerous drought conditions, exacerbate wildfires, and are deadly to vulnerable and elderly Portlanders - but actions like tree planting AND protecting our mature, large trees for shade canopy can save lives. Please vote yes to support this proposal.	No	11/11/24 2:17 PM
32 989	Mia	Support	Please do everything you can to protect portlands trees.	No	11/11/24 2:21 PM
33 989	Oscar Montgomery		Save our trees!! They are what make Portland great!	No	11/11/24 2:27 PM
34 989	Anonymous	Oppose	We need to do everything possible to protect the forestation we have. Please keep the big tree preservation standards code.	No	11/11/24 2:30 PM
35 989	Anonymous	Support	Leave the trees be! We do not need more condos!	No	11/11/24 2:33 PM
36 989	Autumn Voirol	Support	Vote YES to support our existing large trees and space for young ones to grow. As our climate is changing trees are even more important to our well being! They help keep us cool, clean our air, help manage storm water and improve our lives. They also provide habitat for birds and insects which are essential. All communities across our city are deserving of large trees. Protecting large trees can and should be part of sustainable development. Thank you!	No	11/11/24 2:38 PM
37 989	Anonymous	Support	Without its trees, Portland is just another concrete wasteland. We can't lose sight of what makes this city special just to attract economic growth, it's simply shortsighted. People in the future won't be as incentivized to visit and live and spend their money if we destroy the soul of the city that is attracting people now.	No	11/11/24 2:41 PM
38 989	Barbara Wharton	Support		Yes	11/11/24 2:42 PM
39 989	Fiona M	Support	Please help keep Portland green, livable and breathable by extending the existing Tree Preservation Code past the end of 2024. It shows proven results and still allows housing development to happen.	No	11/11/24 2:48 PM
40 989	Andrea Kozil	Support	The urban tree canopy is an important tool for combating climate change. The old trees in Portland also provide important habitat for urban wildlife. Please pass the Large Tree Ammendment.	No	11/11/24 2:51 PM

To: Portland City Council
Re: Nov. 13, 2024, Large Tree Amendment Hearing
Date: November 10, 2024

Dear City Council Members:

I urge you to vote to make the Large Tree Amendment permanent for the following primary reasons:

1. Large Trees are the most productive trees for providing health benefits to the city. Preserving a large tree adjacent to where a member of our community lives can make a difference in health outcome for that resident following a heat wave.
2. There are neighborhoods in Portland that have already born the burden of heat related illness and death. Many vulnerable residents live in neighborhoods that experience significantly higher temperatures than other parts of the city that have ample canopy. Preserving existing large trees in these vulnerable neighborhoods is very important.
3. Portland is already in a state of declining canopy even as climate change prescribes an increase in same. Protection for what we currently have is the only path that makes sense.
4. Many Portland residents advocated for the Large Tree Amendment. It is evident it is still a critical need. The reasons it was deemed necessary originally still exist, and in fact weigh heavier in support of it. There is no new data to suggest otherwise.
5. Portland has become less livable in recent years. There are many contributing issues. Please consider that the collective psyche of all concerned citizens in this city need a sign that the city council will do all in its control to restore our confidence in the future of Portland.

Portland needs the Large Tree Amendment to be permanent.

Thank you,

Barbara Wharton
NE Portland

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41	989	Marita J Ingalsbe	Support	Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Council Members, Please help preserve Portland's tree canopy with your approval of this amendment. Protection of trees with larger than 20" diameter is necessary to prevent further decline in this important resource which offers public health, economic value, and climate resilience. Thank you, Marita Ingalsbe 6214 SW 41st Ave Portland, OR 97221	No	11/11/24 2:53 PM
42	989	Janet Ehrenfreund	Support	Please preserve Portland's urban tree canopy!	No	11/11/24 3:01 PM
43	989	Anonymous			No	11/11/24 3:01 PM
44	989	Katie Vaughan	Support	Trees are an essential protection against the effects of climate change and Portland should do everything we can to protect existing trees.	No	11/11/24 3:04 PM
45	989	Alexander Hayes	Support	Please vote yes to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission. Not only does Portland's Large Tree Canopy help fight global warming, it is also a critical aspect of Portland's culture. When friends and family recently visited from out of town, they marveled at the beauty of Portland's urban greenery. It provides a sense of peace and hope in difficult political and economic times. The trees are a reprieve from the on-going creep of technocracy and militant Fascism gaining strength in this country. Please allow the trees to continue serving their purpose of preserving beauty and peace in our communities. Thank you.	No	11/11/24 3:04 PM
46	989	Louisa Moore	Support	The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy. 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. City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development. This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth. Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission. Vote yes	No	11/11/24 3:06 PM
47	989	Amanda Corey		Please continue to protect our larger trees. I live in SW and have three large trees on my property. Our birds and other friends are constantly using them. We have protected, migrating species that come to our yard just because of the special protection from these large trees. Our neighbors across the street have four large Douglas fir and said if it wasn't so expensive they would cut them all down because they are tired of cleaning up after them. They do not care about helping to protect habitats for species and also, to continue the beautiful mature landscape of our neighborhood. Please, please do not get rid of this. As a tax payer who has voted yes on many many measures and bonds to continue to support and protect our city and environment, I would hate to see this go away and lose some of the beauty we have. Let's not continue the sad memory as "Stump City."	No	11/11/24 3:09 PM
48	989	Tove Danovich	Support	One of the things that made me move to Portland were the tree cover. I believe housing is important but I also think we are resourceful enough to figure out how to build dwellings *and* keep large trees—which take hundreds of years to replace if they can be replaced at all. Please continue to support this measure and keep tree protections in place.	No	11/11/24 3:11 PM

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49	989	Anonymous	Support	<p>The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development.</p> <p>This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth.</p> <p>Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.</p>	No	11/11/24 3:13 PM
50	989	Michele West	Support	Please continue to protect Portland's large trees, an invaluable resource for our community.	No	11/11/24 3:17 PM
51	989	Sandra Joos	Support	<p>The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development. This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth.</p> <p>For all of the above reasons, I urge you to vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.</p>	No	11/11/24 3:22 PM
52	989	Rick Sany		The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy. I urge you to vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.	No	11/11/24 3:23 PM
53	989	Anonymous	Support with changes	<p>The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development. This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth.</p> <p>For all of the above reasons, I urge you to vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.</p>	No	11/11/24 3:25 PM
54	989	Linda Leyva	Support	We need to preserve our tall trees to help keep our neighborhoods shaded and cooler, and to add one more bit of help in reducing CO2 in the atmosphere.	No	11/11/24 3:30 PM
55	989	Anonymous	Support	I live in a part of town with few large trees. We gather there to cool down and given climate crisis is going on mostly unchecked, we don't have another spare 50 years to wait for trees to get large. Keep the ones we have, please.	No	11/11/24 3:32 PM
56	989	Anonymous	Support	We must protect the large trees that remain to shade our urban heat island, sequester carbon, provide habitat & enhance people's connections to nature. How could we do less?	No	11/11/24 3:33 PM
57	989	Maria Nanau	Support	The urban tree canopy is beneficial for mitigating the effects of climate change, and it plays an important role in the ecological resilience of the area. Please continue the regulations for tree preservation.	No	11/11/24 3:41 PM

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58	989	Anonymous	Support	<p>The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development.</p> <p>This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth.</p> <p>Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.</p>	No	11/11/24 3:44 PM
59	989	Anonymous	Support		No	11/11/24 3:49 PM
60	989	Angela Rider	Support	<p>The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy</p> <p>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.</p> <p>City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development</p> <p>This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth.</p> <p>Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.</p>	No	11/11/24 3:53 PM
61	989	Anonymous	Support		No	11/11/24 3:59 PM
62	989	Jess Tuft	Oppose	<p>Keep our big trees! Oregon is defined by it's beautiful big trees and local wildlife that depends on them. As climate change gets worse, the shade and moisture these trees provide will become even more valuable. Do not make it easier to cut them down!</p>	No	11/11/24 3:59 PM
63	989	Anonymous		<p>Protect large urban trees!</p>	No	11/11/24 4:00 PM
64	989	Amy Voldengen	Support	<p>Our big trees add beauty to our city and are something people notice when they visit Portland. The canopy they provide helps cool our city on hot summer days and make the city more livable and safer.</p>	No	11/11/24 4:12 PM
65	989	Anonymous	Support	<p>We need to protect our urban canopy.</p>	No	11/11/24 4:29 PM
66	989	Anonymous		<p>This is a no brainer. It's obvious that portland is experiencing more and worse extreme summer heat waves, terrible air quality, wildlife habitat destruction, and risk of flooding, and urban trees are a crucial tool to combat these things.</p>	No	11/11/24 4:30 PM
67	989	Manon Veilleux	Support	<p>The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy. As the owner of property that is home to an amazing and expansive English Walnut tree, I believe our urban tree canopy is an essential tool in fighting climate change impacts, and the entire City needs to play a role in improving community health and landscape resilience. Data shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development. This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing; lots under 5,000 square feet; and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth. I urge a YES vote to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.</p>	No	11/11/24 4:35 PM
68	989	Anonymous	Support	<p>Please help us protect the urban tree canopy here in Portland as our climate continues to change. The large trees within the city limits provide heat protection for humans and other animals. The exemptions, as written, seem fair, and they balance the interests of housing needs as well as climate protection.</p>	No	11/11/24 4:39 PM
69	989	Alex Harris	Support	<p>Portland's tree canopy is known as one of the largest in the country. In the face of impending climate catastrophe, I find it crucial, as a citizen, to maintain and protect our greenery as closely as possible.</p>	No	11/11/24 4:41 PM

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70	989	Lindsay Ruoff	Support	The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy. 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. City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development. This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth. Please vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission!	No	11/11/24 4:49 PM
71	989	Anonymous	Support	I support amending the tree preservation standards, hopefully to make it a permanent part of Portland policy to charge more for large tree removal. It has proven effective in retaining large trees while allowing contractors to build. Global warming may be harder to resist in the future and Portland needs to do everything it can to protect its residents and its present tree canopy. Once these trees are gone, we cannot get them back.	No	11/11/24 5:04 PM
72	989	Danielle Tucker	Support	The tree canopy is a crucial part of our urban ecosystem, it's also an essential to fighting climate change. We don't need more high rises or luxury apartments we need to keep these trees. They are what makes Portland a beautiful city and not a concrete prison.	No	11/11/24 5:13 PM
73	989	Roberta Jortner	Support	(These comments are the same as in the uploaded document.) Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Title 11 Large Tree Amendment extension. I urge the City Council to approve the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission recommendations to continue the current Title 11 Tree Preservation Standards as amended by the City Council in 2019 and eliminate the sunset clause from Title 11. Having participated in the initial drafting and implementation of Title 11 Trees before retiring from City employment, I suspected that when Title 11 was adopted in early 2011, that the Tree Preservation Standards would not be strong enough to meet their intended purpose. That purpose was to establish an effective incentive to preserve existing larger trees on development sites without causing undue financial impacts on housing and other types of development. The economy had been in recession during development of the tree code and little development was taking place at that time. However, when development soon picked up, the resulting loss of trees caused much community concern. With strong public support, the City Council amended these standards in 2015, and again in 2019, to strengthen the tree preservation standards to meet their intended purpose. City staff have collected informative data showing the amended standards significantly reduced the removal of large trees on development sites (64% for trees 36" diameter at standard height (dsh) or larger from 2015-2019 and 68% for trees 20" dsh or larger from 2019-present). The data also show that less than 3% of housing projects were subject to the larger mitigation fees, and that the cost to those projects was 0.7% of total project value. This is in part due to existing exemptions in Title 11 as noted in the staff's July 11, 2024, memo to the Planning Commission. Based on this information both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission have recommended continuing the current standards without an additional sunset date. Continuing to evaluate how Title 11 regulations are functioning is appropriate and will inform the holistic review and update of Title 11 that the City plans to start in the next couple of years. However, there is no need to muddy the waters with an unnecessary sunset clause that would set the stage for a costly separate public hearing process to address the tree preservation standards. With increasing temperatures and associated health impacts, it has never been more important to preserve trees, especially large canopy trees. This year the community input to the Urban Forest Plan update project again made tree preservation a top priority for Portland's urban forest management. Please honor this community priority by continuing the current tree preservation standards and removing the sunset clause. Thank you for your consideration.	Yes	11/11/24 5:14 PM
74	989	Anonymous	Support	We must continue to preserve ecosystems and large trees.	No	11/11/24 5:32 PM
75	989	Mark Reback	Support	The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy. 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. Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.	No	11/11/24 5:37 PM

MEMORANDUM

TO: Portland City Council
FROM: Roberta Jortner
DATE: November 11, 2024
SUBJECT: Support to Continue Current Title 11 Large Tree Preservation Standards

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Title 11 Large Tree Amendment extension. I urge the City Council to approve the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission recommendations to continue the current Title 11 Tree Preservation Standards as amended by the City Council in 2019 and eliminate the sunset clause from Title 11.

Having participated in the initial drafting and implementation of Title 11 Trees before retiring from City employment, I suspected that when Title 11 was adopted in early 2011, that the Tree Preservation Standards would not be strong enough to meet their intended purpose. That purpose was to establish an effective incentive to preserve existing larger trees on development sites without causing undue financial impacts on housing and other types of development. The economy had been in recession during development of the tree code and little development was taking place at that time. However, when development soon picked up, the resulting loss of trees caused much community concern. With strong public support, the City Council amended these standards in 2015, and again in 2019, to strengthen the tree preservation standards to meet their intended purpose.

City staff have collected informative data showing the amended standards significantly reduced the removal of large trees on development sites (64% for trees 36" diameter at standard height (dsh) or larger from 2015-2019 and 68% for trees 20" dsh or larger from 2019-present). The data also show that less than 3% of housing projects were subject to the larger mitigation fees, and that the cost to those projects was 0.7% of total project value. This is in part due to existing exemptions in Title 11 as noted in the staff's July 11, 2024, memo to the Planning Commission.

Based on this information both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission have recommended continuing the current standards without an additional sunset date. Continuing to evaluate how Title 11 regulations are functioning is appropriate and will inform the holistic review and update of Title 11 that the City plans to start in the next couple of years. However, there is no need to muddy the waters with an unnecessary sunset clause that would set the stage for a costly separate public hearing process to address the tree preservation standards.

With increasing temperatures and associated health impacts, it has never been more important to preserve trees, especially large canopy trees. This year the community input to the Urban Forest Plan update project again made tree preservation a top priority for Portland's urban forest management. Please honor this community priority by continuing the current tree preservation standards and removing the sunset clause. Thank you for your consideration.

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created	
76	989	Christine Bourdette	Support	Please vote to extend the protection of large trees. These trees are vital to combating rising temperatures as the climate changes, maintaining clean air, and preserving wildlife habitat. They are a part of what will continue to rejuvenate Portland and make it a healthier place to live.	No	11/11/24 5:41 PM
77	989	Elora Arding	Support	<p>Dear Members of Portland City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to urge you to vote YES on making the Large Tree Amendment a permanent part of Portland's tree code. This amendment is a critical policy for protecting our urban tree canopy, which plays an essential role in our city's climate resilience, community health, and environmental stability. Here are a few key reasons to support this amendment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Protection of Portland's Tree Canopy- <p>The Large Tree Amendment has proven effective in preserving some of our largest trees, which are essential to our city's green infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Climate Resilience and Community Health - <p>Our urban tree canopy is a powerful natural tool to combat the impacts of climate change. Preserving mature trees strengthens our landscape resilience, improves air quality, and promotes community well-being—goals we all share.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Minimal Impact on New Housing Development- <p>Portland's own analysis has shown that this policy does not significantly impact new housing development. The tree code's many exemptions—including affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones—cover 80% of Portland's planned housing growth, ensuring that tree preservation requirements do not limit much-needed housing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Alignment with City Leadership and Public Support - <p>The Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission both recommend making the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code. Adopting this amendment aligns with Portland's values of sustainability, smart growth, and equitable development.</p> <p>By voting YES, you will help safeguard a crucial element of Portland's urban landscape for future generations. I strongly urge you to support this important policy.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>	No	11/11/24 5:42 PM
78	989	Conservation Biology Institute	Support	Older, larger trees both store more carbon and typically sequester more carbon dioxide from our air. Old trees provide habitat for many species of birds, mammals and invertebrates. Please do not let the incentives to keep these trees standing lapse,	No	11/11/24 5:43 PM
79	989	Ero Gray	Support	My wife and I moved to Portland in 2011 in part because we loved the tree-lined streets and woodsy neighborhoods. But in each neighborhood we've lived in, tree after tree has been sawed down for new construction. The city risks losing its lovely canopy of leaves— if anything trees need more protection, not less.	No	11/11/24 6:09 PM
80	989	Heather Lobitz	Support	<p>The "Large Tree Amendment" is a vital policy that protects the canopy of Portland's forests and supports the well being of plants/animals in those forests.</p> <p>We need to be using all effective and available tools to combat climate change. Not extending this amendment would have a negative impact on our urban forests' ability to reduce greenhouse gases, improve community health, and support landscape resilience.</p> <p>City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development. This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth.</p> <p>Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.</p>	No	11/11/24 6:15 PM

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created	
81	989	Joshua Meyers	Support	The Large Tree Amendment is a vital policy for protecting Portlands tree canopy. In doing so, it plays a major role in improving community health and landscape resilience in a changing climate. City analysis shows the Large Tree Amendment has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development. Please vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission. Please vote YES to keep Portland healthy and preserve the reputation of being a green city. Thank you.	No	11/11/24 6:30 PM
82	989	Anonymous	Support	I greatly support the amendment that increases fees for large trees and in turn protects large, older growth trees in the Portland area. These trees are important for urban shade and wildlife, especially as temperatures rise each summer in Portland. Please consider continuing this fee structure to help preserve large trees!	No	11/11/24 6:31 PM
83	989	Rebecca Steffoff	Support	I am writing to urge City Council not just to extend the current Large Tree Amendment to Portland's Tree Code but to make it a permanent part of the code. Large, mature trees are a vital part of Portland's tree canopy. They perform essential ecosystem services for the city, including carbon sequestration, shade cooling, and bird habitat. Denuded of large trees, Portland's urban tree cover would be greatly impoverished and diminished. Please help our home keep its character as a green city, and help it prepare for an ever-warming, carbon-rich future by codifying protection of of its large trees as part of development planning.	No	11/11/24 6:31 PM
84	989	Anonymous	Support	The big trees here in Portland are a significant part of what made me fall in love with this city and want to move my life here. The city should do everything in its power to protect these trees that are such a vital part of the local ecosystem and a stand out feature that makes Portland unlike any other city!	No	11/11/24 6:34 PM
85	989	Charles "Chuck" Robert Schneider	Support	When I was 23, I took a gamble and moved to Portland, into a sight-unseen rental. The first day I was here, I climbed to the top of Mount Tabor and looked down... and I barely saw a city. I saw roads, and buildings, of course, but overwhelmingly, I saw *green*. The treetops dominated the cityscape in a way I couldn't have imagined in a modern city. In that moment, I fell in love with Portland. I'm in love with it still. 18 years later, I live my life in this forest-city that's given me my my wife, my family, my career, and my home. I've read the 'arguments against' rescinding elder tree protections, and I'm not impressed. Protecting our elder trees doesn't interfere with the housing development that Portland *does* desperately need; rather, it provides a future with more clean air, more bird habitats, and - crucially - more shade in a world with increasing temperatures. That said, I also want it to stay green for benefit of the next person who falls in love with Portland by looking down at this forest-city from the top of Mount Tabor. Thanks for listening.	No	11/11/24 6:39 PM
86	989	Anonymous	Support	As our nations trees are dying of blight, heat, & beetles we must protect those that survive!	No	11/11/24 6:54 PM
87	989	Sophie Carter	Support		No	11/11/24 7:06 PM
88	989	Kammy		Big trees are vitally important to the quality of life in Portland and for carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation. Please protect them!!!	No	11/11/24 7:25 PM
89	989	Anonymous	Support	Please help preserve our tree canopy. Can't we have nice things?	No	11/11/24 7:27 PM
90	989	Anonymous	Support	Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission. We need these beautiful old trees to help us with climate change and to keep shade and habitats for all!	No	11/11/24 7:30 PM
91	989	Rachel Goldman	Support	Please make large tree protection permanent. We need these vital trees, particularly in the face of climate change. It is not only us who use and share the land we use, we share with the other animals in our ecosystem and these trees are essential to them. Please listen to your concerned citizens and make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.	No	11/11/24 7:42 PM

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created	
92	989	Lloyd Vivola	Support	As recommended by the Planning Commission and the Urban Forestry Commission. I am writing to urge the Portland City Council to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of Portland's Tree Code. I am encouraged by Portland's effort to increase the availability of affordable housing in our city. At the same time, evidence gathered by city bureaus concludes that big tree protection under the current preservation code does not significantly impede much needed housing development. Equally important, extending current tree preservation standards will ensure community health and safety well into the future by enhancing the prospect of expanded tree canopies and the growing of greener neighborhoods that will buffer against the impact of global warming. Pairing housing goals with big tree protection is an important step toward environmental sanity that the Council would be wise to approve.	No	11/11/24 7:45 PM
93	989	Anonymous	Support	The canopy of large trees is essential to our public wellbeing in a myriad of ways. It is common sense to protect the largest and strongest of these trees as weather conditions change and worsen. Make such protections permanent to ensure we are protected in turn.	No	11/11/24 7:47 PM
94	989	Esther Forbyn	Oppose	I strongly support the continuation of the tree standards code in Portland. It is an effective measure that has helped preserve the urban canopy, a crucial feature for the health and beauty of our city for generations to come. Thank you.	No	11/11/24 7:48 PM
95	989	Anonymous	Support	It's essential to protect veteran trees for biodiversity, maintain property values, community beauty, citizen well being and to maintain an admirable standard for other towns to emulate.	No	11/11/24 7:51 PM
96	989	Anonymous	Support	Our urban canopy is an important part of the environment and will be even more so as climate change worsens. This standard has preserved many trees over the time it's been in place, and must remain to continue this protection.	No	11/11/24 7:57 PM
97	989	citizen	Support	I am writing to urge city council to extend protections for Portland's largest trees. The "Large Tree Amendment" is crucial to protecting the cities tree canopy for myriad reasons - most importantly to help combat the devastating effects of climate change! Trees absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen for all of us to breathe. They keep our environment healthy and balanced in so many ways: cooling our cities, preserving soil, providing food for wildlife, combating noise and light pollution as well as creating beautiful surroundings and stress-free areas to relax and get away. According to data from the National Wildlife Federation, if there is more greenery around apartment buildings the crime rate is significantly lower than similar housing facilities with no trees. As representatives of our city, you need to do everything you can to help improve community health and landscape resilience. As you are surely aware, analysis shows that the current policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development. A yes vote is recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission. Please help take care of our planet and its people by voting YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code. Thank you. Liza McQuade Portland, Oregon	No	11/11/24 7:57 PM
98	989	Walter Englert	Support	I am writing in support of Agenda Item 989, "Amend Tree Preservations Standards..." The amendment is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy. Portland's urban tree canopy is an essential tool to fight the impact climate change, both by providing much needed shade and coolness during the summer, and sequestering large amounts of carbon to help mitigate the impact of higher levels of CO2. Please vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.	No	11/11/24 8:00 PM
99	989	Nicole Steele	Support	We need to keep large trees for wildlife habitat, and also to continue preserving equitable spaces that keep our local climate from getting too hot and exposed. This is a crucial issue! Trees of this diameter are irreplaceable in any reasonable human life span let alone the damage that cannot be undone. These issues are related to many city priorities around increasing the value of our city, maintaining our resources, and equitable access.	No	11/11/24 8:04 PM
100	989	Mary Englert	Support	I fully support renewing and making permanent the Large Tree Amendment which protects Portland's large trees from unnecessary removal. The exemptions that have been in place have not interfered with housing development. Given the numerous benefits of the presence of these large trees for their role in shade production as our summers lengthen and intensify, and as carbon storage increases in importance and as providing habitat for numerous species contributes to making Portland a more livable city, I encourage you to Amend the Tree Preservation Standards Code.	No	11/11/24 8:06 PM

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created	
101	989	Jené DeSpain	Support	Please continue to protect our Portland tree canopy. We remain a special urban environment because of the gorgeous old trees throughout our city. Please keep the Large Tree Amendment and ensure our trees stay in place.	No	11/11/24 8:07 PM
102	989	Beppie Shapiro	Support	We all know how grateful we are when we walk under the canopy of a large tree in hot sun or rain. The benefits of large trees go beyond those moments - the tree canopy cools entire neighborhoods; it improves air quality; and it improves mental health for those who experience being within close sight of trees - all proved by research. With its many exceptions for affordable housing, small lots, etc., the large tree amendment does not significantly impact housing construction, while it improves our quality of life. Please vote to make the Amendment permanent.	No	11/11/24 8:11 PM
103	989	Constance Cooper	Support	Preservation of large, mature trees helps to keep a city livable, appealing, and healthy. There is no substitute for the historical and wildlife benefits of keeping big trees!	No	11/11/24 8:14 PM
104	989	Anonymous	Support	The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy 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. City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth. Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission	No	11/11/24 8:18 PM
105	989	Anonymous	Support	The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy 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. City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth. Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.	No	11/11/24 8:19 PM
106	989	Anonymous	Support		No	11/11/24 8:24 PM
107	989	Anonymous	Support	As a state known for rich, natural beauty, the Oregon legislature should protect Portland's big trees. Keep Portland beautiful, shady, and carbon-friendly!	No	11/11/24 8:25 PM
108	989	Triple Acorn Tree Service	Support	The urban canopy and in particular, the large trees, are what make Portland such a special place. Removing large trees is wrong for so many reasons but being a green city is our identity and one we can't recover if bad policy is passed.	No	11/11/24 8:26 PM
109	989	Triple Acorn Tree Service	Support	The urban canopy and in particular, the large trees, are what make Portland such a special place. Removing large trees is wrong for so many reasons but being a green city is our identity and one we can't recover if bad policy is passed.	No	11/11/24 8:26 PM
110	989	Lita Batho	Support	As a long time resident of Portland, I completely support the Large Tree Amendment and the preservation of our tree canopy. Our urban trees are essential for our health, the environment, and quality of life, as evidenced by the cooler temperatures in neighborhoods protected by a large tree canopy. This is becoming increasingly critical as summers get warmer. In addition, the large trees are an investment in the beauty and long term health of our city. Development has not shown to be significantly impacted by the commitment to preserving our trees. I feel very strongly about not only preserving, but increasing the city's commitment to urban trees. We must not allow developers to take them out.	No	11/11/24 8:29 PM
111	989	Anonymous	Support	I've lived in Oregon (specifically the Portland area) my entire life, as have 5 generations of my family. The beautiful and, more importantly, thriving ecosystem is not only something many people see as a draw for Oregon but it is essential to our lives. Clean water, clear skies, fresh air, wildlife, and more than I could ever say rely so greatly on our trees. To give easier access and more initiative for development and removal of these trees will be detrimental in the long run. The amendment doesn't ban removing these trees obviously, however even this small deterrent is enough of an inconvenience to discourage the development that destroys vital parts of our ecosystem.	No	11/11/24 8:33 PM

	Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
112	989	Taylor Valdés	Support	Our big trees are part of our city's natural heritage. Please protect them. These trees are crucial habitat and irreplaceable beauty. They are are elders. Respect them. Honor them.	No	11/11/24 8:33 PM
113	989	Michael Bell	Support	I am writing to advocate for continuing the Large Tree amendment. While it is appropriate to question and reconsider some of things that "make Portland, Portland," I don't believe a vibrant canopy of large trees is one of them. As we seek to make adjustments to our city in preparation for a warming climate, it seems like a easy choice to leave these "proven success stories" in the fight to create cooler neighborhoods and reduce carbon dioxide. Please allow Portland to continue to protect its large trees.	No	11/11/24 8:51 PM
114	989	Stacy Montgomerie	Support	The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy 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. City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth. Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission	No	11/11/24 8:51 PM
115	989	Janelle Mesa	Support	I strongly support making the "Large Tree Amendment" a permanent feature of Portland's tree code. This policy is crucial for protecting our urban tree canopy, which is a vital asset in combating climate change and promoting community health and resilience. Our urban trees contribute to cleaner air, reduced heat, and better stormwater management—benefits that extend to everyone in Portland. However, maintaining this canopy requires a citywide commitment to tree preservation, especially in areas undergoing rapid development. According to City analysis, the amendment has been effective in preserving some of our largest and most valuable trees without significantly hindering new housing development. This is due to the tree code's exemptions for affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones, which make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth. These exemptions allow us to meet our housing goals while still protecting essential green spaces. A YES vote on the Large Tree Amendment would ensure that this important policy remains in place, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission. This decision is a positive step towards a healthier, more resilient Portland.	No	11/11/24 8:51 PM
116	989	Yonette Fne	Support	The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy 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.	No	11/11/24 8:57 PM
117	989	Matthew D Albertson	Support	The presence of these trees is a defining aspect of the image of Portland, in my mind. They represent our commitment to preservation and bring a bit of the forestland to Portland's doorstep. More than this, the presence of these trees is useful. Their presence during the summer helps to keep the surrounding region cool. They provide a home for all matter of creatures. And the interconnections their roots have made with their surroundings helps other trees during times of environmental stress. For us and for the sake of the environment, preserve these trees.	No	11/11/24 9:03 PM
118	989	Anonymous	Support	Please vote to continue this tree preservation standards code! It's important that there are reappropriate ramifications for making decisions that impact the environmental health of our city. Thanks!	No	11/11/24 9:13 PM
119	989	Anonymous		People don't go to places to see buildings. People visit places to see what makes the places unique; their natural settings. Protect our trees. Instead of building new buildings, address the abandoned and neglected properties rotting through out the city.	No	11/11/24 9:16 PM

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created	
120	989	Anonymous	Support	The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy. 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. City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development. This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth. Please vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission. thanks, Bryan B	No	11/11/24 9:18 PM
121	989	Brittney	Support	Making the large tree amendment a permanent part of tree code is essential to our community enjoyment, protecting our changing environment, and safeguarding state wildlife! It's something that both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission support, and it has little impact on necessary new housing development.	No	11/11/24 9:42 PM
122	989	Anonymous	Oppose	The cost to cut down big trees should increase, if anything, not decrease.	No	11/11/24 9:56 PM
123	989	Anonymous	Support		No	11/11/24 9:57 PM
124	989	Anonymous	Support	It should continue indefinitely	No	11/11/24 9:58 PM
125	989	Vicky Medley		Please please please extend the protection to our large trees with the Large Tree Amendment. Our large trees help fight climate change, and are an essential part of what makes Portland so rad. I urge you to vote yes, we need to be doing all that we can to fight climate change!	No	11/11/24 9:58 PM
126	989	Meeting Trees, Flora Rudolph		It is heartbreaking to see trees, large or small, treated as things at our disposal. We all know that trees are essential for our lives and health. We know that our air is worse than even a few years ago, so why would we destroy trees? It is complete insanity. All the other benefits: connection to these sacred beings, beauty, shade and so forth are also obvious. We must keep all of our trees and allow the small ones to become large. How many times are we called to say the obvious?	No	11/11/24 10:01 PM
127	989	Anonymous	Support		No	11/11/24 10:26 PM
128	989	Grace martin	Support		No	11/11/24 10:31 PM
129	989	Jessica Lewis	Support		No	11/11/24 10:43 PM
130	989	Hope	Support	Please continue to support our urban forest ecosystem. It is a vital part of Portlands beauty, will help with heatwaves and with birds and other wildlife that sorely need our support. Thank you.	No	11/11/24 10:48 PM
131	989	Jillian	Support	The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy 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. City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth. Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.	No	11/11/24 10:50 PM
132	989	Kimberly Burk	Support	I support the continuation of the large tree amendment to help reduce loss of our urban tree canopy. Preserving these trees is an important step in mitigating pollution and the effects of climate change, not to mention beautifying the city! Please vote Yes to make this a permanent part of the tree code. Thank you.	No	11/11/24 10:56 PM
133	989	Anonymous		Please protect our large trees. Humans and wildlife both need them.	No	11/11/24 11:31 PM

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created	
134	989	Josette Hughes	Support	The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy. 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. City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development. This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth. Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.	No	11/11/24 11:35 PM
135	989	Vance	Support	The trees are what make Portland (and all of Oregon for that matter) so unique and diverse, not only in wildlife but culture as well. To destroy a tree so that a lifeless parking lot or uninspiring tech company building may be built would be erasing the very identify of our state.	No	11/12/24 12:15 AM
136	989	Maria Castaneda-Cruz	Support		No	11/12/24 12:57 AM
137	989	Anonymous		I urge you to continue to protect Portland's mature trees. Mature trees are crucial in an urban landscape, providing ecosystem benefits that newly planted saplings do not. They cool the surrounding air, reducing electricity costs; help slow storm water runoff; clean our air and reduce air pollution which keeps human lungs and bodies healthier; in areas of commerce is has Ben shown that people will stay and shop for longer periods of time on streets with a higher percentage of tree canopy...the list of economic and environmental benefits goes on and on. Newly planted saplings do not provide these same benefits, are often not properly managed in the landscape for long-term health and growth, and often do not survive past the first two decades of its lifespan. By protecting mature trees, you protect the longevity and vitality of this green, beautiful city. -Zoe S ISA Certified arborist PN-10146A	No	11/12/24 4:52 AM
138	989	350PDX	Support	Through my work with the 350PDX Forest Defense team I have learned a lot about how important large form trees are to Portland's urban canopy. These trees are the workhorses that keep neighborhoods cool and reduce waste water runoff. The large tree amendment is essential for preserving these hard working members of our community! It takes 50-100 years to grow a large tree and a day to cut it down. We ultimately need to strengthen this part of the tree code to ensure that large trees are found everywhere in the city, but for now extending this amendment is the best way to make sure that we have the large trees we need to keep Portland safe in the face to climate change.	No	11/12/24 6:25 AM
139	989	Matthew McGraw	Support	Trees are a defining characteristic of Portland. They are valuable aesthetically and for our health. Big trees cannot be quickly replaced and must be protected. Please continue their protection.	No	11/12/24 6:26 AM
140	989	Anonymous	Oppose		No	11/12/24 6:46 AM
141	989	Shayal Karan	Support	The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy. 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. City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development. This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth.	No	11/12/24 6:47 AM
142	989	Anonymous	Support		No	11/12/24 7:01 AM
143	989	Anonymous	Support	Retaining this requirement is crucial to protecting wildlife, fighting climate change and protecting human health.	No	11/12/24 7:13 AM
144	989	Jonathan Nelson	Support	Trees provide so much for us from cooling our homes and streets, providing beauty, and supports many lives beyond our own. It should be challenging to remove them because so much good is removed with them.	No	11/12/24 7:20 AM

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created	
145	989	Kimber Nelson	Support	<p>The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy. As someone who lives in a low-tree neighborhood, I see and feel that 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. I know this is important to my health, and as a nurse I know it is important, and at times maybe even life-saving, to my low-income, elderly, and frail patients.</p> <p>City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development. This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth.</p> <p>I ask you to vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.</p>	No	11/12/24 7:49 AM
146	989	Sara Kitcher	Support	<p>Dear Portland City Council Members,</p> <p>I'm writing to ask for your support in making the "Large Tree Amendment" a permanent part of Portland's tree code. This policy is crucial for protecting our urban tree canopy, which we all know is one of our best tools for tackling the impacts of climate change while supporting our community's health and resilience.</p> <p>Portland's trees do so much more than add beauty to our neighborhoods. They help manage stormwater, improve air quality, and provide shade, which is especially important as temperatures rise. By preserving our largest trees, we're investing in a stronger, healthier, and more resilient city.</p> <p>The city's analysis has shown that this amendment has been successful in preserving some of our biggest, oldest trees while having only a limited impact on new housing development. With exemptions for affordable housing, smaller lots, and high-density zones—areas that will see 80% of Portland's planned housing growth—the amendment strikes a careful balance between housing needs and tree preservation.</p> <p>Voting YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent part of the tree code is a chance to keep that balance. The amendment is backed by both the Planning Commission and the Urban Forestry Commission, showing a strong commitment from multiple perspectives on its importance for our city.</p> <p>Thank you for considering this policy to protect our trees and strengthen our community</p>	No	11/12/24 8:02 AM
147	989	Anonymous	Support	<p>These stabilize soil, absorb CO2, provide habitats and shade. They are our natural heritage.</p>	No	11/12/24 8:10 AM
148	989	Jenny AMPERSAND	Support	<p>The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy. 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.</p> <p>City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development. This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth.</p> <p>Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.</p>	No	11/12/24 8:14 AM
149	989	teresa mcgrath	Support	<p>with climate change we need our large trees for shade..pls continue this, thx</p>	No	11/12/24 8:18 AM
150	989	Anonymous	Support	<p>I LOVE TREES AND I LOVE BIRDS YOU CANT TAKE THEM FROM ME</p>	No	11/12/24 8:30 AM
151	989	Anonymous	Support	<p>Please help protect our big trees and all the benefits they provide. They are irreplaceable.</p>	No	11/12/24 8:55 AM
152	989	Lorna Lyons	Support	<p>Please vote YES to preserve our Large Trees which are a hallmark of your Beautiful City. I know studies have been done that show it is working to preserve 68% of our Largest Trees and Is ALSO NOT SIGNIFICANTLY LIMITING THE NEW BUILDING WE NEED BECAUSE OF THE EXEMPTIONS ALREADY IN PLACE. Please vote YES to preserve our Beautiful Tree City. Thank you for your work</p>	No	11/12/24 8:59 AM
153	989	Stephanie Duffy	Support	<p>Protecting our large trees is absolutely critical for supporting all forms of life within our city, from microbes and insects to human beings, especially as our summers get hotter.</p>	No	11/12/24 9:01 AM

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created	
154	989	Neena Douglas	Support	I have watched development increase in my neighborhood and the negative impact that has had on the neighborhood green space. Do not remove protections of large trees as that negatively impacts the health and well being of urban living areas. Please Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission. Thank you, Community Member Neena Douglas	No	11/12/24 9:04 AM
155	989	portlander	Support	please don't add more pollution to our city please don't take homes away from animals	No	11/12/24 9:15 AM
156	989	Anonymous	Support	The continuation of the large tree policy has so many benefits. Trees in general affect climate globally, air quality locally, streams and waterways, and wildlife habitat. Swaths of the city are becoming more and more exposed and barren as development continues. Trees beautify our city and keep it from being a barren and concrete jungle. Because my experience is that developers and builders consistently clearcut for convenience, they should not be expected (or trusted) to make community minded decisions that protect and preserve our local ecosystem. A code that clearly states the continued policy to protect this city is the wisest step forward. The scientists can tell you how many young trees would need to be planted to provide equivalent protections offered by one grand old tree. Please continue to preserve a beautiful community resource with your decision.	No	11/12/24 9:18 AM
157	989	Karen Thompson	Support	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. City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development. Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.	No	11/12/24 9:20 AM
158	989	Julie O'Brien	Support	Dear City Council Members, I'm writing to strongly urge you to extend the protections for Portland's large trees under the "Large Tree Amendment" to Title 11. The amendment has proven effective in preserving the essential urban canopy by reducing large tree removals by 68%, allowing Portland to keep vital environmental benefits that these trees provide. As we face more intense summer heat waves, compromised air quality, and increased flooding risks, maintaining protections for large trees is a critical investment in the health, resilience, and well-being of our community. Large trees play an irreplaceable role in providing shade, improving air quality, stabilizing soil, and supporting wildlife. Their capacity to mitigate pollution, enhance biodiversity, and offer natural cooling is unmatched, especially in an urban landscape. Allowing the amendment to expire would lead to the unnecessary removal of these invaluable trees, undermining the city's commitment to sustainability and resilience. Please vote to keep the "Large Tree Amendment" in place. Let's protect Portland's natural legacy for current and future generations.	No	11/12/24 9:27 AM
159	989	Andy Meeks	Support	The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy 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. City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth. Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.	No	11/12/24 9:34 AM

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
160 989	Kelly Peterson	Support	<p>Dear Portland City Council:</p> <p>Portland's large trees are superheroes in fighting climate change, cooling our homes by as much as 10 degrees and these last few summers have proved that climate change is here, and the large trees we cut down today, will determine the temperatures of our neighborhood, sidewalks, and streets in the years ahead. Their canopy is equally critical, to providing shade—sequestering carbon, and sheltering Portland's birds, wildlife, insects, and humans who live under their massive boughs.</p> <p>Moreover, the leaves from a tree aren't just removing carbon from our air, they're holding onto it, for life. Trees are amazing air filters, and the leaves themselves can capture the tiny flecks of chemicals and debris that can inflame our lungs. In short, trees build with the carbon that would otherwise thicken the blanket of greenhouse gases overheating our planet.</p> <p>However, these remaining large trees in Portland are at alarmingly low numbers. In fact, a recent tree inventory that was conducted on public land and on the right of way illuminated a disturbing fact: How few big trees are still standing.</p> <p>The truth is replacement trees cannot do the job of a Douglas Fir, towering at 100 feet with enormous mass and carbon offset, getting us to the city's zero emissions objective. Scientists estimate just one Douglas Fir sequesters almost 14 tons of carbon in the first 100 years. With a single large tree removed, it will take another 100 years to recreate their canopy, and there is no concrete evidence we will ever regain its existing canopy's values once removed.</p> <p>That's why I am writing to urge Portland City Council to extend protections for large trees throughout Portland by supporting the Large Tree Amendment as a permanent feature of Portland's tree code.</p> <p>Our quality of life, our climate, our future depends upon the decision made today by Portland City Council.</p> <p>Thank you, Kelly Peterson SW Portland</p>	Yes	11/12/24 9:39 AM
161 989	Jilene Jensen	Support	<p>Dear members of the Council,</p> <p>I urge you to vote Yes in support the Large tree amendment. This is due to the fact that these trees support the local wildlife and is essential to help fight climate change. During the winter these trees are prime roosting sites for the local crow population.</p>	No	11/12/24 10:47 AM
162 989	Taylor Lee	Support		No	11/12/24 10:51 AM
163 989	Baxter Call	Support	<p>The large tree protections in this amendment are important for keeping the character of Portland. There are also numerous ecological and climatological benefits to protecting large trees from development. The stormwater retention and cooling provided by large trees is a major benefit in an urban setting.</p>	No	11/12/24 10:59 AM
164 989	Anonymous	Support	<p>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.</p>	No	11/12/24 11:32 AM
165 989	Anonymous	Support	<p>I am writing today to urge you to vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code.</p> <p>The Large Tree Amendment is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy which is an essential tool to fight the impacts of climate change. The entire City needs to play a role in improving community health and landscape resilience.</p> <p>City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth.</p> <p>This Amendment is supported by the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.</p> <p>I once again urge you to vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code.</p>	No	11/12/24 11:33 AM

The urban forest canopy will cover at least 33 percent of the city and impervious areas will have been reduced by 600 acres through depaving efforts, ecoroofs and roof gardens.



	Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
166	989	Patti Martin	Support	Keeping these larger trees is so important both for air quality and neighborhood livability. I would suggest a larger fee for the destruction of such trees. Thank you.	No	11/12/24 11:34 AM
167	989	Natalie Tracy, Living Room Realty	Support	As a local realtor, I regularly witness firsthand the environmental damage done in the name of development. We need to do better. Our large trees provide crucial habitat for birds and pollinators, help buffer our city's most vulnerable folks from extreme temperatures, and provide much needed tree canopy with a whole host of positive environmental impacts. Please renew this amendment and continue to preserve as many of our large trees as possible.	No	11/12/24 11:45 AM
168	989	Anonymous	Support	Portland's tree canopy has been shrinking at a time when it is becoming ever more important for resilience in the face of climate change. I urge you very strongly to make the large tree amendment a permanent part of the tree code as recommended by both the Planning and Urban Forestry Commission.	No	11/12/24 11:56 AM
169	989	Emily Wahl	Support	<p>To Whom it May Concern,</p> <p>I am writing to testify as strongly in favor of removing the expiration date for the Large Tree Amendment. We need our trees that are 20" DBH or bigger to be protected in perpetuity.</p> <p>I am also in favor of reducing the 5,000 sq. ft. lot exemption to a 3,000 sq. ft. lot exemption, as was originally planned. The 5,000 sq. lot exemption provides developers with a loophole that allows them through lot confirmation to divide large lots into smaller ones that meet the exemption, letting them cut down more of our large trees.</p> <p>I would also like to see the exemption for affordable housing projects from the tree code to be ended. People who need affordable housing also need large trees. Exempting affordable housing from the tree code only exacerbates the inequity of fewer large trees in neighborhoods where lower income people live.</p> <p>I also support giving Urban Forestry the authority to place liens on property to collect fines owed under the tree code increasing the mitigation requirement for removing healthy street trees in development to more than 2 trees for every 1 tree removed closing the loophole that allows developers to remove 2/3 of healthy trees and all of less than 12" DBH dead, dying, dangerous, or nuisance trees without replanting any trees if the project cost is less than the non-conforming upgrade valuation tightening the by right removal of trees less than 10 feet from a building. Trees should be evaluated by Urban Forestry and determined if they should be required to be saved. The evaluation should also prevent small make-shift buildings being installed just to avoid saving a tree or paying a fee to remove it. The mitigation for removing these trees should also be increased for more than 1 tree-for-tree in the case of large trees. Tree size calculations for tree density should no longer favor fast-growing species, as slow growing species are more wind and storm resistant, making them more valuable as we experience more severe weather due to climate change. The roots of trees adjacent to development should also be protected by the tree code. Mitigation for large nuisance tree removal should be increased. Although they pose their own risk to the environment, they are still a large tree that provides environmental benefits. Increase fees for tree removal, or require preservation, removing the fee option. Remove exemption for Heavy Industrial zones, on lots less than 5,000 sq. ft., and on lots with existing or proposed building coverage of more than 85%. We need large trees now, more than ever, to mitigate climate change and other environmental devastation that we've already committed. Yet our tree canopy has shrunk since 2015. The city must do better to preserve our existing large trees as well as planting more trees for the future.</p> <p>Thank you for receiving my testimony.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>	No	11/12/24 12:00 PM
170	989	Jim Labbe	Support	As some will recall, this provision of Title 11 (tree code) was added in 2015 after the controversial public protest and costly acquisition that ultimately saved three massive Sequoias in the East Moreland Neighborhood. The developer could afford to hold the trees hostage and extract a huge ransom to preserve them because the mitigation fees for large form trees were set way too low in the Tree Code Revisions developed under Citywide Tree Project and adopted in 2011. At that time many expressed the concern that the Tree Code would provide insufficient safeguards for large form trees. As someone who helped shape the current Tree Code, I support making these safeguards for large form trees on private land permanent.	No	11/12/24 12:08 PM

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created	
171	989	Christine Yun	Support	I support removing the sunset date on the tree preservation ordinance. Large trees have taken years to grow, and scientific studies show that they are far more effective in removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than young trees. In addition, their canopies serve as habitat for multiple species. Sudden removal of these habitats, mean hardship for the inhabitants. Lastly, the shade provided by the large canopies is so vital to reducing impacts of climate change in too-hot summers. As has been reported, it is hard to get young trees to grow in Portland, because they require constant nurturing until they are established.	No	11/12/24 12:15 PM
172	989	Ashley Gruver	Support	As a community member, I strongly support the continuation of amending Portland's tree preservation standards to ensure the long-term health of our urban forest. Portland's trees are invaluable, offering benefits such as air and water purification, storm water reduction, temperature control, carbon capture, and overall enhancement of livability. Our urban forest is not only an ecological asset but also a safeguard against climate change impacts, and it significantly contributes to neighborhood beauty and public health. Title 11 was developed to protect these large trees during urban development, which are particularly rare and irreplaceable. Amendments since 2016 have been effective in preserving these trees, especially with the critical 2020 adjustment lowering the size threshold for preservation to 20 inches in diameter. Without further action, these protections will expire at the end of 2024, putting many large trees at risk. Removing the sunset clause will make these protections permanent, securing ongoing contributions to Portland's Tree Planting & Preservation Fund, which plants thousands of new trees annually in low-canopy areas. The existing regulations have not impeded housing development, as demonstrated by a 2019 study, which found minimal impact on housing production. Broad exemptions within Title 11 ensure that housing projects, especially affordable housing, are not overly burdened by tree preservation standards. Therefore, making these regulations permanent would continue to balance urban development with essential environmental protections. For the above reasons, I urge City Council to remove the sunset date from PCC 11.50.040, thus safeguarding the significant and diverse benefits our urban forest provides to all Portland residents.	No	11/12/24 12:20 PM
173	989	Marlee Skolkin	Support		No	11/12/24 12:27 PM
174	989	Anonymous	Support	I am writing to express my strong support for the "Large Tree Amendment." This policy is a vital measure for the protection of Portland's urban tree canopy, which plays an essential role in mitigating the impacts of climate change and enhancing community health and landscape resilience. City analysis has demonstrated that this policy effectively preserves some of the city's largest trees while having a minimal impact on new housing development. The tree code already includes numerous exemptions—such as for affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones—which collectively account for 80% of Portland's planned housing growth. I urge the Council to vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent part of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission. Thank you for your consideration.	No	11/12/24 12:36 PM
175	989	Nicholas Ayers	Oppose	The trees downtown are a vital cooling mechanism in our warming climate, as well as necessary habitat for local wildlife. Not to mention they are a substantial part of Portland's character. Cutting them down would be a grievous loss.	No	11/12/24 12:39 PM
176	989	Chris Lee	Support	Large trees are integral to Portland's and Oregon's identity. They offer heat management and beauty.	No	11/12/24 1:02 PM
177	989	Elvin Thompson		Protect and keep planting appropriate trees as much as possible. Do NOT remove trees unless it is absolutely necessary. This is necessary for the sustainability of all life.	No	11/12/24 1:06 PM

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created	
178	989	Karly Chin	Support	I strongly support extending Title 11's Large Tree Amendment. The Large Tree Amendment benefits both the environment and people. It's a win-win. Trees are vital contributors to overall ecosystem health– they filter water, purify air, maintain soil structure, and provide important habitat. Trees are also important for human health. On a spiritual and emotional level, they are a way for people to connect to nature, which is especially important for those living in urban environments, where nature may not be as accessible. They also keep temperatures down, clean the air, clean the water, and help mitigate stormwater runoff– all critical issues of climate change. This amendment is not only important, but it works. A city analysis showed that this policy decreased large tree removals by 68% while having a minimal impact on new housing development. Vote yes to make the Large Tree Amendment permanent, and support both natural and human communities.	No	11/12/24 1:08 PM
179	989	Sarah Biedak	Support	The “Large Tree Amendment” is a crucial policy for protecting Portland’s urban tree canopy 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. City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city’s largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development This is due to the tree code’s many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland’s planned housing growth. Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.	No	11/12/24 1:18 PM
180	989	Ben Popp	Support	Dear Council Members, I personally have bared witness to this destructive and unnecessary practice of removing healthy and large trees for the development of property which by all means could have built aorund the tree and even included it in project to continue to beautify the neighborhood as well as provide needed habitat for animals and shade for those around. I have also seen a large single family house, which easily could have been a duplex fully incorporate a large beautiful tree into the construction and that house is by far and away much more sightly and lovely for the street and neighborhood than the garish monstrosity for profit with NO vegetation around, or even a place to plant a new tree!! It is wasteful and useless and honestly a tragedy for this city when developments are allowed to simply destroy these years and years old beatiful habitats and shade providers for the sole sake of their non-creativity and profit driven greed as well as immense lack for the neighborhood as a whole who lives there year round. PLEASE Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission. You will be doing future generations a favor.	No	11/12/24 1:39 PM
181	989	Sarah Schmeer	Support	Please make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the Tree Code - it is a crucial policy for protecting Portland’s urban tree canopy, which is an essential tool to fight climate change impacts. The entire City needs to play a role in improving community health and landscape resilience, City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city’s largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development. This is due to the tree code’s many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland’s planned housing growth. Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission. As Portland trends towards more extreme summer heat waves, worsening air quality, reduced wildlife habitat, and flooding from extreme weather events, urban trees provide the best tool to bolster both ecosystem and human health.	No	11/12/24 1:56 PM
182	989	Anonymous	Support	Trees are what set Portland apart from other cities. Allowing removal of older bigger trees is something I do not stand for. Companies need to learn how to build around them! More trees less structures please!	No	11/12/24 2:11 PM
183	989	Amy D. Valentine	Support	I live in Irvington. Our neighborhood is highly desirable in large part because of all the large trees. Large trees provide shade and homes for wildlife. They keep the heat and noise down. It's worth it to protect the large (and small!!) trees. Trees make life better.	No	11/12/24 2:14 PM
184	989	Frann Michel	Support	I support making the large tree amendent permanent. Older, larger trees are much more effective at capturing carbon as well as providing shade--both increasingly important as the climate crisis accelerates. I would also support expanding the Amendment to provide fewer exceptions and save more trees.	No	11/12/24 2:33 PM

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created	
185	989	Esther Forbyn	Support	I support maintaining large trees in our city through this code. Our urban tree canopy is an essential tool to fight climate change. Large trees keep our city cool in the summer, help clean the air, and make our city more livable. Let's keep our big trees, please!	No	11/12/24 3:25 PM
186	989	Rosemary Mendonca	Support	Please extend the Large Tree Amendment to preserve crucial shade for general public health, especially during heat wave events which will only become more common as the climate shifts. Additionally, this amendment has little impact on expanding housing, as multiple exceptions to the Tree Code already apply.	No	11/12/24 3:25 PM
187	989	Nastacia voisin	Support	Trees enrich our community in so many ways. Every summer there is hard data proving that canopies areas of the city are cooler. Trees provide shelter to wildlife, including bird and insect populations already besieged by climate change. Trees alter the city landscape, creating areas of community and providing shelter. Please protect the trees.	No	11/12/24 3:37 PM
188	989	Anonymous	Oppose	Tree canopy is necessary to fight climate change. Tree canopy can lower concrete temperature by 12F, which will reduce heat deaths in the city. Large trees serve as crucial habitat for wildlife.	No	11/12/24 3:54 PM
189	989	Left blank	Support	Here are 4 specific points in support of making the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code 1 - The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy. 2 - 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. 3 - City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth. 4 - Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.	No	11/12/24 3:56 PM
190	989	Anonymous	Support	For the future of our birds, city air quality and adaptation to changes from global warming, please Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.	No	11/12/24 3:56 PM
191	989	Taylor Bowden	Support	Large trees provide substantial ecosystem services and are NOT equivalent to smaller trees. Morality for newly planted trees is extremely high, So preserving existing large trees that took over 50 years to establish is vital as we face the rapid worsening effects of climate change. We should extend large tree protections and consider strengthening them so developers and capitol projects with large budgets think twice before just paying into the tree fee without batting an eye. I see this routinely working as a landscape architect within the city.	No	11/12/24 3:59 PM
192	989	Anonymous	Support	Urban trees support ecosystem and human health. Thanks to the trees in my yard, my house doesn't require air conditioning to stay comfortable, even during our more frequent and severe heat waves. The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy. Our urban tree canopy is an essential tool to fight climate chaos impacts and the entire City needs to play a role in improving community health and landscape resilience. City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development. This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth. Please vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.	No	11/12/24 4:07 PM
193	989	Anonymous	Support	Large trees are a critical part of the Portland landscape. We recently lost a Redwood near where I live and it has deeply saddened me. Please do not make it easier for developers to remove large trees, they are part of what makes Portland special.	No	11/12/24 4:31 PM
194	989	Germana de Falco	Support	Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.	No	11/12/24 4:42 PM

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created	
195	989	Sharon Mann	Support	This is just logical! The larger the tree, the larger the lost habitat. Yes to supporting large trees.	No	11/12/24 4:44 PM
196	989	Chris Dodge	Support	<p>I am writing to urge your support for the Large Tree Amendment, a crucial policy that plays an essential role in protecting Portland's urban tree canopy. Our tree canopy is a powerful tool in the fight against climate change, helping to cool our city, improve air quality, and enhance the health and resilience of our community.</p> <p>City analysis has shown that the amendment has been effective in preserving some of Portland's largest and most vital trees. At the same time, it has had a limited impact on new housing development, ensuring that both our environmental and housing needs are balanced. This is due to the tree code's many exemptions, including provisions for affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones—exemptions that apply to 80% of Portland's planned housing growth.</p> <p>Now is the time to make this important policy permanent. The Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission both recommend making the Large Tree Amendment a lasting feature of the tree code to ensure our urban canopy continues to thrive while accommodating the city's growth.</p> <p>Please vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment permanent. It should be a priority to safeguard Portland's trees, promote climate resilience, and build a healthier, more sustainable for our community.</p>	No	11/12/24 5:07 PM
197	989	Theresa Rickloff	Support	As someone who lives in East Portland, and feels the daily impact of a sparse tree canopy, I hope to see this amendment stay in place. We can't afford to lose more trees, and must do what we can to fund the planting & maintenance of young trees. We must provide equal access to the benefits of trees and provide for our future.	No	11/12/24 5:25 PM
198	989	Caitlin Kleiv	Support	Want cleaner air, cooler streets, and a healthier Portland? Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment permanent and protect our valuable tree canopy!	No	11/12/24 5:50 PM
199	989	Rebecca A Lexa	Oppose	I prefer that we keep the current tree preservation standards, especially with regards to large trees. Our urban canopy is a crucial part of Portland's beauty as a city, and is also important for mitigating the local effects of climate change. Taking down big trees that cannot be easily replaced only reduces the overall effectiveness of the canopy as a whole. Moreover, the vast majority of housing development in Portland is exempt from the current tree code.	No	11/12/24 6:13 PM
200	989	Mulysa Melco	Support	Please keep protection for our large trees! In urban areas, especially when we face the increasing impacts of climate change, they are critical to the health and habitat of our city.	No	11/12/24 6:26 PM
201	989	Anonymous	Oppose	<p>In recent years Multnomah county has experienced numerous destructive events due to large trees. Trees that fall under the 2016 large tree amendment causing them to be too expensive for homeowners to take preventative measures. Look no further than winter 2023 when we got record snowfall and wind, leading to home damage, road closures, and extended power outages.</p> <p>I oppose this measure because I feel the city already has enough checkpoints in place to prevent citizens from recklessly removing trees without thought.</p>	No	11/12/24 6:30 PM
202	989	Sifu Gardener	Support	<p>I am a Kodama - a forest spirit that speaks for the trees and encourages the stewards of the land to reconnect with their primordial soul and feel that nature is always there within you. We live in an ecological paradise in the Pacific Northwest where our beacons, stalwarts, and grounding rods are the trees that grace our neighborhoods in the city of Portland. Our big trees represent us and where our values lie. We have deep roots that go all the way back to the Oregon Trail and a tree canopy that explodes with color in the fall, connects the stars with its bare branches in the winter, provides food and habitat for innumerable forest beings in the spring and summer.</p> <p>We need to protect our big trees to honor our past, enjoy the present reality, and ensure that the city of Portland continues to thrive. Please vote to extend the tree preservation standards and choose the future, not the short term gains.</p> <p>If you're struggling to decide what is the right decision then simply envision yourself planting a tree with the hope that it will live longer than you.</p> <p>As the great Pocahontas sang, "how high does the sycamore grow? If you cut it down, then you'll never know."</p>	No	11/12/24 6:32 PM
203	989	Sister Garden - Blanca Garcia-Rinder	Support	Please continue to protect our largest trees and tree canopy biomes. It is vital for the city to have shade and habitat as well as carbon sequestration from these giants.	No	11/12/24 6:33 PM

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created	
204	989	Daniel Catalinotto	Support	As a physician living and working in Portland, I write in support of the continuation of the Large Tree Amendment. While developing affordable housing for the city's residents is incredibly important, so too is keeping the ecosystem of Portland healthy. Old tree growth provides shade, oxygen, calm, and life to the city. There are plenty of developers who are creative enough to work large, old trees into their designs. If they choose to take a shortcut and cut down old trees on their land, they should be made to pay a premium that matches the amount of destruction that occurs when an old tree is removed.	No	11/12/24 6:47 PM
205	989	Kiersten Rossing	Support	Keeping these trees protected is vital to keeping our environments and neighborhoods cooler, which is going to be integral to survival as our climate gets warmer and warmer. It's also provides beauty, habitat, and solidarity with marginalized communities that are most impacted by climate change. Protect our communities and our land.	No	11/12/24 6:53 PM
206	989	Clarice Johnston, DMD	Support	Please renew this code protecting Portland's Large Trees. There aren't that many left and needless to say, not easy to replace. Our warmer weather, and the warming crisis in general, definitely need trees to be preserved. And there are other benefits too. And it did not significantly impact development of building. Not enough to warrant it ceasing to exist. Trees are central to what makes Portland feel like just not another sterile urban desert. AND Thank You for your public service, ie, being willing to attend all those meetings and think about what is best for Portland.	No	11/12/24 6:56 PM
207	989	Arwen Della Penna	Support		No	11/12/24 7:03 PM
208	989	Kami Hamilton	Support	The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy. 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. City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development. This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth.	No	11/12/24 7:18 PM
209	989	eliza lindsay	Support	Vote yes to make the large tree amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.	No	11/12/24 7:20 PM
210	989	Bruce Barbarasch	Support	I'm writing to encourage you to support the long-term preservation of big trees. Larger trees have more benefits for people and wildlife. With climate change upon us, trees are a great way to keep people cooler and make our city more livable. Please vote yes to keep the large tree amendment in place.	No	11/12/24 7:44 PM
211	989	Anonymous	Support		No	11/12/24 8:04 PM
212	989	Eric	Oppose	The tree code places too great of a burden upon property owners with trees. Reduce replacement requirements. Prioritize housing over trees.	No	11/12/24 8:45 PM
213	989	Anonymous	Support	Please amend City Code 11.50.040 to make permanent the inch-for-inch mitigation fee for cutting down trees in development situations.	Yes	11/12/24 8:58 PM
214	989	Michele Dickson	Support		No	11/12/24 9:07 PM
215	989	Daniel Newberry	Support	Please amend City Code 11.50.040 to make permanent the inch-for-inch mitigation fee for cutting down trees in development situations.	Yes	11/12/24 9:13 PM
216	989	Ranger Nikki	Support	We speak for the trees! The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy. Our urban tree canopy is an essential tool to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Save the Trees!	No	11/12/24 9:51 PM
217	989	Anonymous	Support	The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy. 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. City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development. This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth. Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.	No	11/12/24 9:52 PM

November 12, 2024

Portland City Council
1221 SW 4th Ave
Portland, OR 27204

Re: Support to amend Tree Preservation Standards Code 11.50.040

Dear Mayor Wheeler and members of the Portland City Council,

Please amend City Code 11.50.040 to make permanent the inch-for-inch mitigation fee for cutting down trees in development situations.

In 2019, the Portland City Council voted to approve Ordinance 187675 regarding tree preservation on private property in development situations. This ordinance would either prevent the removal of large trees or require the applicant to pay into a fee-in-lieu fund as a method to discourage the removal of large trees. This ordinance had a sunset date of December 31, 2019. This ordinance has been successful.

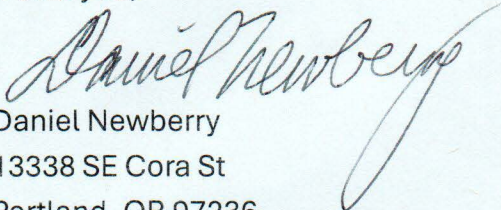
Portland has a goal of increasing its tree canopy. A major reason for this goal is to increase shade, and in doing so, mitigate some of the impacts of climate change, which fall disproportionately on low-income Portlanders, many of whom are people of color.

I am a former Commissioner of Portland's Urban Forestry Commission. I saw how this ordinance was, and is, effective in discouraging the removal of large trees in development situations. The inch-for-inch mitigation—down to 20 inches in diameter—provides a strong financial incentive for developers to create site plans that do not include removing large trees.

A mature tree can provide shade and other environmental benefits at more than one thousand times that of a newly planted tree. It will take one or two generations for a newly planted tree to realize its environmental benefits. We simply cannot afford to lose large trees at the rate we have lost them since Title 11(Tree Code) was enacted.

Ordinance 187575 has proven successful. Please make this ordinance permanent.

Thank you,


Daniel Newberry
13338 SE Cora St
Portland, OR 97236

November 12, 2024

Portland City Council
1221 SW 4th Ave
Portland, OR 27204

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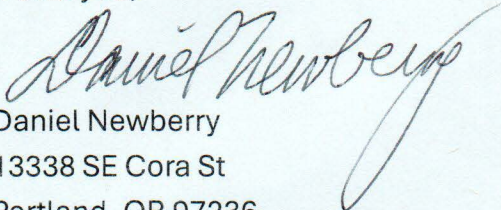
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Thank you,


Daniel Newberry
13338 SE Cora St
Portland, OR 97236

	Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
218	989	Neena Petersen	Support	Please vote "YES" to Extend Protections For Portland's Largest Trees! With climate change worsening every year, our trees are so crucial to helping us fight the extreme heat we have been having and will, unfortunately, continue to have in the future.	No	11/12/24 10:02 PM
219	989	Anonymous	Oppose	Don't make it more expensive or difficult for Portland residents to maintain their properties.	No	11/12/24 10:23 PM
220	989	Portland State University	Support	Hello, I'm a botanist and instructor at PSU, the science shows that urban trees drastically improve quality of life in the neighborhoods in which they are present. It is obvious that continuing these protections is the right thing to do, so please do so. Cheers, Dan Krumm PhD Student, Instructor Cruzan Lab Biology Department Portland State University	No	11/12/24 10:29 PM
221	989	Anna Kirgiorgis	Support	We need to protect our cities tree canopy now more than ever. The trees keep our city cooler, provide habitat for wildlife and keep us healthy!	No	11/12/24 10:34 PM
222	989	Aletha Woodruff	Support	There is no reason developers shouldn't be able to work around existing trees. Portland doesnt want cookie cutter designed developments anyways. And with climate change and the urban heat dome/ heat waves / storm damage we need all the shade we can get. Urban canopy is a public health issue and it is one of the things that makes living in a city bearable. Keep all the trees!	No	11/12/24 11:07 PM
223	989	Julianna Johnson	Support	Please continue to incentivize the preservation of large trees! I live in East Portland where the summer heat can be especially brutal. Large trees are a critical part of improving the lives of Portlanders.	No	11/12/24 11:37 PM
224	989	Daniel PC	Support	Large trees in Portland should continue to be protected by our current tree codes that dissuade developers from removing them. Aside from the climate and weather arguments others have named, large trees have a positive impact on pedestrian well-being, property values, and driver safety. Studies show that tree-lined streets are at lower risks for accidents and are perceived to take less time to travel through because of their calming effect and visual appeal. There is a strong correlation between property values and the presence of trees; the lack of trees in East Portland, arguably its most challenged district with the lowest property values, is a testament to this. And of course, they absorb and shade heat for pedestrians. Please support continuing these codes protecting vital assets (large trees) that improve the livability of its residents and contribute to Portland's iconic, nature-like appeal. I know new development in Portland can be challenging with obtuse restrictions and barriers, but this is one area we shouldn't compromise on.	No	11/13/24 1:12 AM
225	989	LMember of Bird Alliance of Oregon	Support	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.	No	11/13/24 4:59 AM
226	989	Kelley Beamer, East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District	Support	The East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) strongly supports removing the sunset clause for the Large Tree Amendment in Portland's Tree Code (Title 11), as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission. EMSWCD is committed to the health and wellness of our community through conservation and stewardship of natural resources. Portland's tree canopy is vital to keeping our neighborhoods cool in the face of escalating summer temperatures. Large established trees provide unique habitat and water absorption benefits to our city that are irreplaceable with new trees. Tree preservation is codified within EMSWCD's strategic plan through our dedication to climate resilience. Large trees improve quality of life and also provide quantitative benefits which are near and dear to the City and its citizens, like cost-effective stormwater management, traffic calming, energy conservation, soil retention, and improved air quality. We know that the City's Large Tree Amendment is working in its intention to retain irreplaceable large trees and the public benefits they provide. We thank you for your efforts to protect and enhance our urban tree canopy and urge you to vote yes to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code.	Yes	11/13/24 7:01 AM



November 13, 2024

Portland City Council
1900 SW Fourth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97201

Re: Agenda Item 989 – Amend Tree Preservation Standards

The East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) strongly supports removing the sunset clause for the Large Tree Amendment in Portland's Tree Code (Title 11), as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.

EMSWCD is committed to the health and wellness of our community through conservation and stewardship of natural resources. Portland's tree canopy is vital to keeping our neighborhoods cool in the face of escalating summer temperatures. Large established trees provide unique habitat and water absorption benefits to our city that are irreplaceable with new trees. Tree preservation is codified within EMSWCD's strategic plan through our dedication to climate resilience. Large trees improve quality of life and also provide quantitative benefits which are near and dear to the City and its citizens, like cost-effective stormwater management, traffic calming, energy conservation, soil retention, and improved air quality.

We know that the City's Large Tree Amendment is working in its intention to retain irreplaceable large trees and the public benefits they provide. We thank you for your efforts to protect and enhance our urban tree canopy and **urge you to vote yes to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code.**

Kelley Beamer

Kelley Beamer
Executive Director, EMSWCD

	Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
227	989	Lori Buff	Support	We need to protect our large trees as much as possible. With summer temperatures reaching above 85 and 90 degrees with more frequency we need to maintain a canopy just to be able to walk around. It's also extremely important for helping keep our city looking beautiful which improves quality of life and tourism.	No	11/13/24 7:15 AM
228	989	Anonymous	Support	The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy. 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. City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development. This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth. Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.	No	11/13/24 7:55 AM
229	989	Nancy Mogielnicki	Support	The urban tree canopy is essential for the public health (cooling), and for reducing carbon. Continuing to protect our largest trees is imperative.	No	11/13/24 7:57 AM
230	989	Kyle A Van Leuven	Support	I am a general contractor in the Portland area, and I strongly support continuing the current levels of tree preservation that exist within the city. Please, this is important to many, thank you.	No	11/13/24 7:59 AM
231	989	Anonymous	Oppose	Permits to cut down trees, permits to plant trees, and taxes to keep trees. Get this one right. Don't tax land owners for loving the environment.	No	11/13/24 8:12 AM
232	989	Portsmouth resident	Support	November 13th, 2024 Testimony re: 989-16 Laura Feldman Portsmouth Neighborhood I urge the Planning Commission along with the Urban Forestry Commission to continue to support the proposed amendment to remove the sunset clause from the Large Tree Amendment provisions in Title 11, making it a permanent feature of the tree code. In District 2 where I live we have some of the worst air in the city given the industry that surrounds the North Portland Peninsula. According to EPA's Environmental Justice Data Mapping Tool, we have a lower life expectancy. We also have the Portland International Raceway here which, along with noise pollution, emits tons of CO2 during a race season, which along with lead emissions from some of the races covering a 25 mile radius from the track. Trees are crucial in creating a noise buffer as well as capturing some of the air pollution we deal with here. Sometimes the air will be so bad when I leave in the morning on my bike, that I won't actually be able to draw my first real breath until I enter Columbia Park. As the drought and the fire season grow longer-- we still have wildfires burning in both Washington and Oregon--our trees, especially our precious old growth trees-- will help protect us and mitigate some of the worsening effects of the climate disaster we are and will be challenged by. Bruce Nelson in his column Tree Matters describes the tree needs of District 2 where I live which includes the recommendation: ■ Change the City tree code in a manner that facilitates greater tree canopy in industrial zones, or immediately adjacent to, District 2.	No	11/13/24 8:19 AM
233	989	Dani White	Support	Old trees are, by definition, a resource that can not be mitigated or restored in the short term. These trees are a necessary part of our landscape and should be preserved. I am in favor of keeping the code as is.	No	11/13/24 8:49 AM
234	989	Susan Woodside	Support	Please vote to continue protection for Portland's large trees. Trees provide shade and habitat, prevent soil erosion, and of increasing importance, temperature regulation. And, they serve to remind us that we live in a unique and beautiful place. Thank you.	No	11/13/24 9:13 AM
235	989	Karin Zachow	Support	This protection for mature trees should be made permanent as it has been shown to be effective in preserving tree canopy while still allowing desired building thru exemptions.	No	11/13/24 9:17 AM

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
989	Corrie Wisner	Support	<p>Dear Mayor Wheeler, Commissioner Rubio, Commissioner Ryan, Commissioner Mapps, and Commissioner Gonzalez:</p> <p>I am writing in strong support of extending Title 11's Large Tree Amendment. The Large Tree Amendment offers extra protections to Portland's biggest trees, which benefit both the environment and people. I am asking you to vote YES on extending the Large Tree Amendment and making it a permanent feature of the Tree Code (Title 11).</p> <p>In my neighborhood, I have seen the buzz sawing of old growth trees. Their canopies once shading entire lots, now replaced by monolith condominiums with limited, wispy trees planted in the parkway that will take generations to yield the benefits of the single tree that was lost — privacy, shade, clean air, and diverse urban ecosystems in our own backyards.</p> <p>While better preservation of existing trees is a top priority for broader Title 11 improvements, increasing the cost to replace large trees can continue to keep more in place, and I argue, more attractive architecture and living spaces that are inclusive of the large trees and contribute to the overall character and health of Portland, reflecting the ethos of the constituents, and makes us good stewards of our wild neighbors and healthy landscapes.</p> <p>People are drawn to Portland because it is known for being a city of trees and has received recognitions such as the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA Award. My hope is that preserving the Large Tree Amendment as a permanent part of the Tree Code (Title 11) would encourage developers to create and execute plans with the inclusion of the large trees as part of the overall aesthetics of the buildings they erect.</p> <p>This approach would limit the impact on the heat index of the city, where the removal of large trees, erection of big-box structures, and exposure of asphalt yield no reduction to the temperatures in our communities. It would also bring the outdoors in, with views of foliage and wildlife, furthering our connection to the environment. Let us consider habitats not just for people, but also for our wild neighbors as part of the discussions concerning the Large Tree Amendment.</p> <p>It is important to note that City analysis shows that the mitigation fee provided in the Large Tree Amendment/Tree Code has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having minimal impact on new housing development. With this in mind, I urge you to vote YES on extending the Large Tree Amendment.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and attention to our voices in support of this important matter.</p>	Yes	11/13/24 10:01 AM

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November 13, 2024

Re: Support For Extending Title 11's Large Tree Amendment - Vote Yes

Dear Mayor Wheeler, Commissioner Rubio, Commissioner Ryan, Commissioner Mapps, and Commissioner Gonzalez:

I am writing in strong support of extending Title 11's Large Tree Amendment. The Large Tree Amendment offers extra protections to Portland's biggest trees, which benefit both the environment and people. I am asking you to vote YES on extending the Large Tree Amendment and making it a permanent feature of the Tree Code (Title 11).

In my neighborhood, I have seen the buzz sawing of old growth trees. Their canopies once shading entire lots, now replaced by monolith condominiums with limited, wispy trees planted in the parkway that will take generations to yield the benefits of the single tree that was lost — privacy, shade, clean air, and diverse urban ecosystems in our own backyards.

While better preservation of existing trees is a top priority for broader Title 11 improvements, increasing the cost to replace large trees can continue to keep more in place, and I argue, more attractive architecture and living spaces that are inclusive of the large trees and contribute to the overall character and health of Portland, reflecting the ethos of the constituents, and makes us good stewards of our wild neighbors and healthy landscapes.

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This approach would limit the impact on the heat index of the city, where the removal of large trees, erection of big-box structures, and exposure of asphalt yield no reduction to the temperatures in our communities. It would also bring the outdoors in, with views of foliage and wildlife, furthering our connection to the environment. Let us consider habitats not just for people, but also for our wild neighbors as part of the discussions concerning the Large Tree Amendment.

It is important to note that City analysis shows that the mitigation fee provided in the Large Tree Amendment/Tree Code has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having minimal impact on new housing development. With this in mind, I urge you to vote YES on extending the Large Tree Amendment.

Thank you for your time and attention to our voices in support of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Corrie Wisner

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Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
989	Suzanne Moulton	Support with changes	<p>Urban tree canopy is essential to preserving livable neighborhoods. Please vote to make protections for large trees permanent.</p> <p>Why big tree canopy is important:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •During the heatdome event more people died in neighborhoods without tree canopy than those with tree canopy. •Majority of newly planted trees are not surviving the hot summers, so tree canopy is NOT being replaced, especially in developments where no continuing tree care is provided. •tree canopy helps disperse heavy rain and large tree root systems percolate water into our aquifers rather than no tree cover = rain water running downhill into home basements and eroding foundations. • large trees provide large habitat space for small birds which eat mosquitoes and large birds which eat rats and other rodents. Neighborhoods that lose large trees see a large jump in insect and rodent populations. Surrounding neighbors are burdened with costs of increase need for pest control. <p>I support increased regulations for large tree maintenance near powerlines to protect people and property:</p> <p>Large trees can be safely managed with proper pruning, thinning, and professional care to reduce height so they withstand storms. The tree management company Oregon Tree Care is heading up strategies to reduce tree height without harming tree health.</p> <p>Where on the other hand, Electric utility companies have been employing tree removal subcontractors untrained in tree care to trim living trees and unnecessary compromising the tree's stability and health. The Electric company's policies of topping, and complete one-side trimming causes tree rot, sunburn and unbalanced trees. This practice has caused a great deal of large tree deaths and dangerous tree falls in recent storms. This practice is most prevalent in less affluent neighborhoods where there are less home owners and people do not know they can request better tree trimming strategies. You can see the evidence when driving around Portland and looking at the trees. Drive up Burnside as a strong example, the further east you go the more trees are hacked away without consideration for their health or balance.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my points.</p>	No	11/13/24 10:10 AM
989	Stephanie Byrd	Support	<p>We need our urban tree canopy more than ever as dire heat waves are affecting our residents in painful ways. City analysis shows that the tree policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development. We can continue to protect the beauty that we love about our city AND protect housing and health for the most vulnerable: a win for all. Affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth. Please vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.</p>	No	11/13/24 10:14 AM
989	Anonymous	Support with changes	<p>We desperately need our larger trees, especially our conifers which are better at reducing stormwater during the winter months when the rest of the deciduous trees don't have leaves. I'd like to see less exemptions as I believe we can increase housing availability and still keep some of our larger tree canopy.</p>	No	11/13/24 10:19 AM
989	Anonymous	Support	<p>The degradation of our urban tree canopy erodes the essence of our city.</p>	No	11/13/24 10:21 AM

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Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created	
241	989	Anonymous	Oppose	<p>I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed "price-per-inch" amendment to the city's tree removal regulations. While I understand the intent behind this policy—to protect Portland's urban canopy and promote sustainability—I believe that the implementation of this fee structure will disproportionately punish honest homeowners and small property owners.</p> <p>Unfair Burden on Homeowners: This fee system unfairly places a financial burden on ordinary homeowners, many of whom are already struggling with the rising costs of living and property maintenance. A significant fee per inch of tree diameter can be financially crippling, particularly for individuals who may need to remove trees for legitimate reasons, such as safety concerns or property development.</p> <p>Exemptions Allow for Abuse: There are enough exemptions built into this system that dishonest arborists or developers could easily find ways to circumvent the price-per-inch rule. Those with the resources or connections to exploit these loopholes will not be held accountable. Meanwhile, homeowners who cannot afford or access dishonest services will be left in a vulnerable position, potentially facing financial hardship or having to live with dangerous trees on their property.</p> <p>Lack of Fairness: At its core, this policy creates an unequal playing field. It disproportionately impacts homeowners who are doing their best to comply with the law and maintain their property responsibly. For many people, the cost of removing a tree under this system may be simply unaffordable, leading to unsafe or unsightly conditions that they are unable to address. Conversely, those with financial resources or connections can navigate the system to avoid paying these fees.</p> <p>We need laws that are equitable, transparent, and truly serve the best interests of all Portlanders—not just those with means or insider access. Instead of creating a fee system that places a heavy burden on ordinary homeowners, I urge the City Council to reconsider this amendment and work toward a more balanced, fair approach that takes into account the diverse needs of Portland's residents.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>	No	11/13/24 11:03 AM
242	989	Anonymous	Support	As a long-term Portland resident with 2 large trees, I ask that you support their conservation after the 11/13 expiration. I have seen multiple trees taken down on my block in the last several years, and the toll that it has taken on both local wildlife and energy costs to compensate in my home. Please preserve the large trees in our neighborhoods. Thank you.	No	11/13/24 11:20 AM
243	989	Anonymous	Support		No	11/13/24 11:44 AM
244	989	Suzanne Pflaum	Support	This is crucial not just for wildlife but to help us meet climate commitments and continue to make portland livable through heat waves. Please vote yes!	No	11/13/24 12:13 PM
245	989	Anonymous	Support	I fully support Agenda item 989 to protect Portland's largest trees, not just for their beauty and longevity, but for the wildlife they host, the shade they provide, and cleaner air. A city without large trees is a city without vibrancy and less attractive to tourists!	No	11/13/24 12:13 PM
246	989	Susan Marmaduke	Support	Please vote yes. Large trees are not only an important part of the fabric of our city, providing shade and habitat, but essential to the effort to fight climate change.	No	11/13/24 12:33 PM
247	989	Tyler Reyes	Support	Urban trees are important to mitigate heat islands	No	11/13/24 1:07 PM
248	989	Anonymous	Support	In these times of climate uncertainty and especially the uncertainty around climate politics, it feels more important than ever to protect measures we have in our own community that support ecological preservation and protection. This seems like a simple way that council members can show Portlanders they are taking the care of the city and its unique environment in these anxious times.	No	11/13/24 1:39 PM
249	989	Kalli Mason	Support	<p>Hi, my name is Kalli Mason, I have been a Portland resident for 5 years now on the west side. Portland always impresses me with how many trees we have, especially how many old or second growth trees we still have sprinkled around the city. Climate change is impacting communities all across the world in real time and we need to be putting forth more climate mitigation if we want any kind of functional future. Greenery goes a long way in helping cities in combating climate change. From cleaner air, to cooler temperatures, our city canopy is going to be vital in helping with more extreme weather. Making this large tree amendment permanent will help protect more of our trees or at the very least provide revenue to plant more when a tree is removed. It has already shown to work in it's temporary statuses, so let's make the right move for our planet, our city and for the residents by making it official. Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Kalli Mason</p>	No	11/13/24 1:51 PM

	Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
250	989	Anonymous		Please vote to incentivize alternatives to cutting down large trees. We all need these old trees, humans and non-humans. They cool us, shelter us, feed us, help us breathe and live. Please incentivize alternative city planning by voting yes to making the large tree amendment permanent.	No	11/13/24 2:38 PM
251	989	Logan Kary	Support	I have grown up in Portland, raised on the natural abundance and beauty that the Willamette Valley provides. I remember the awe I felt walking through the old growth forests of the Pacific Northwest because I still feel that today. How inspiring would it be to foster a similar ecosystem in the Portland Metro area? Other comments, I'm sure, will describe the ample ecosystem and human benefits these large trees supply. I am here to remind City Council what visions they have for our beautiful city. Do you want your community, and the generations to come, to grow up with the same awe that I did? Do you want them to be able to view native wildlife from their streets and breathe in clean air? I urge our City Council to continue protecting the trees of Portland that need time and care to grow. Because they are, and will continue to be, some of the most crucial cornerstones to a healthy, resilient, and happy ecosystem (whether you're a bird or a human). Thank you for your time and consideration.	No	11/13/24 3:33 PM
252	989	Judy L Todd	Support	We need the Large Tree Amendment as a permanent feature of our city tree code. This is a crucial amendment to make permanent. The City's own analysis shows that this mitigation fee for builders and developers has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a negligible effect on new housing development. Let's keep it that way, not take it away. And, there are already negative impacts as a result of the tree code's many exemptions relative to Affordable Housing needs, so protecting what we have for the future as development continues makes sense. We need both: Affordable Housing with new greenspaces containing existing as well as new trees AND keeping the larger and older trees still standing.	No	11/13/24 3:53 PM
253	989	Hannah Wood	Support	I fully support preserving private trees in Portland as one measure to help combat climate change.	No	11/13/24 4:04 PM
254	989	The Treehouse: a Forest Garden School	Support	Please Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission. A new study from Yale Environment Review shows that large trees capture carbon more efficiently than smaller trees, suggesting that they have a disproportionate effect on how forests influence global climate change. Please have Oregon be a leader in fighting climate change, support biodiversity, provide crucial habitat and food source for our wildlife.	No	11/13/24 6:27 PM
255	989	Anonymous	Support	Please protect large trees	No	11/13/24 7:09 PM
256	989	Lisa Meddin, Harmony Design Northwest	Support	Mature tree canopy is ESSENTIAL to reduce heat islands, clean air pollution and provide important habitats. As the owner of a landscape design company and the former Director at The Savannah Tree Foundation, I strongly support mature tree preservation and protection from development.	No	11/13/24 7:21 PM
257	989	Anonymous	Support with changes	The trees and nature of Portland and surrounding areas make living here worth it. Please don't sacrifice these beautiful historical landmarks.	No	11/13/24 8:16 PM
258	989	Anonymous	Support	Please Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission	No	11/13/24 8:52 PM
259	989	Anonymous	Support	I grew up in Eastmoreland, and having seen the effects of urban heat islands on other areas of our city which have little to no urban canopy I believe it is critical to preserve, protect and expand our urban forests. These protections may hinder development but they do not impede any more than other, more damaging anti-development policies. A mature tree is worth more than any manicured development hellstrip any day.	No	11/13/24 10:43 PM

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
260 989	Mary Coolidge	Support	<p>Dear Council members, I am writing in support of making the "Large Tree Amendment" a permanent policy to help protect Portland's critical urban tree canopy. In a time of climate change that we have all felt--particularly in the last few years, protecting our tree canopy is an essential tool to fight climate change impacts.</p> <p>This policy has been an incredibly effective means of preserving some of our largest trees and makes our city more livable for all residents.</p> <p>Please vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent element of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.</p>	No	11/14/24 7:29 AM
261 1012	M.S. Forestry OSU, member Bird Safe Oregon & St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal; Green Team & outreach to houseless.	Support	<p>Vote Yes on to make permanent the "Large Tree Amendment", which is crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy, an essential tool for combating heat islands in our city. Our urban tree canopy reduces the impact of climate change by providing shade which cools the city. Large Trees can help prevent dangerous heat islands. The entire City must focus on improving community health by preserving Portland's Tree Canopy both for shade=cooling and for landscape resilience. City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth. Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.</p>	No	11/14/24 4:07 PM
262 1012	Sheila T Donley	Support	Please keep the Large Tree Amendment in place and make it permanent. Thank you.	No	11/15/24 5:24 AM
263 1012	Sasha Olszewski	Support	Climate change will continue reduce our tree canopy and any efforts to preserve what is left are critical. In my neighborhood of north Tabor, the ice storm in January took out many old conifers---on my block alone, we lost three. In anticipation of annual extreme weather events, I urge our city do what they can to preserve our tree canopy.	Yes	11/15/24 8:05 AM
264 1012	Anonymous	Support	<p>The "Large Tree Amendment" is a crucial policy for protecting Portland's urban tree canopy 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. City analysis shows that the policy has been effective in preserving some of the city's largest trees while having a limited effect on new housing development This is due to the tree code's many exemptions: affordable housing, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones are exempt from tree preservation requirements. These sites make up 80% of Portland's planned housing growth. Vote YES to make the Large Tree Amendment a permanent feature of the tree code, as recommended by both the Planning Commission and Urban Forestry Commission.</p>	No	11/16/24 3:10 PM
265 1012	Andrew Gruver	Oppose	Please don't alter the ecosystem, or the character, of our downtown!	No	11/18/24 7:15 AM





Portland City Council Meeting
Wednesday, November 13, 2024 - 2:00 p.m.
Verbal Testimony

	Agenda Item	Name
1	989	kyna rubin
2	989	Micah Meskel
3	989	Justin Wood
4	989	Ellen Mendoza
5	989	lynn handlin
6	989	Brenna Bell
7	989	Rick Till
8	989	Diane Meisenhelter
9	989	Jan Zuckerman
10	989	Judy L Todd
11	989	Emily Stebbins
12	989	Laura Feldman
13	989	Calvin Rollins
14	989	Kelley Beamer