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Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2012 11:17:00 AM
Subject: pdxplan

To the Planning and Sustainability Commission:

Testimony for the Public Hearing on January 24, 2012:

I have some broad concerns about the management of our City long-term.

1. The Plan contains no provision for ensuring solar access. Solar access will be increasingly vital as we become more reliant on renewable energy sources. Direct sunlight is also essential for production of food in home gardens.
2. Portland's sewage treatment facilities pump tons of dissolved salts into our rivers, and then to the Pacific Ocean, where they remain. There is nothing in the Plan which will effectively stop this pollution of our planet and put the salts back into the soil where they will act as fertilizer for growing plants.

Each of these concerns represents a large-scale environmental issue, which must be addressed over the long term. Portland currently touts itself as "greener-than-thou" among large cities, which is generally true. Until our City government effectively deals with these issues, Portland may be leading in the green race, but will be far from the finish line. "Better" and "best" are not what Portland's government should be; it should be efficient and effective for its present and future citizens and for the planet.

While I have been very satisfied with my interactions with City staff, I have also become aware in recent conversations with City staff in several bureaus that politics and policy often trump optimum public service. This failing indicates a lack of integrity in upper management and in the Council itself. The Plan should ensure accountability, consistency, and transparency. Public participation should be actively sought; e.g. meetings in a forum format rather than open-house show-and-tell.

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