



**OREGON**  
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October 8, 2014

Andre Baugh, Chair  
City of Portland, Planning and Sustainability Commission  
1900 SW 4th Ave, Suite 7100  
Portland, Oregon 97201

Dear Mr. Baugh:

I am writing in support of one of our most innovative and sustainable members, Portland Nursery, and your deliberation of zoning requirements for their operation in the City of Portland. I am grateful for this opportunity to provide some information for the planning and sustainability commission's consideration.

It my understanding that the commission is reviewing the zoning regarding the property owned by Portland Nursery. I would like to give input on the importance of Portland Nursery continuing business within the city limits of Portland.

Portland Nursery supplies many Portland residents with diverse plant material that is otherwise limited, unless citizens drove outside of the city limits. Its acreage and size provides the community a local source of high quality plants, when taken home adds to the beauty and livability of our neighborhoods. Portland Nursery supports the local economy by buying over 95% of their products from within a 100 mile radius. They are one of the largest independent retail nurseries in the state, and therefore support many of our small wholesale growers.

I have been out to visit this operation on many occasions and appreciate the fact that we have a family, locally-owned business that attracts environmentally-conscious customers. They are also a good sized employer – with 70 full-time staff with a peak of over 100 full-time employees in high season, many of which have worked at Portland Nursery for over a decade. They hire smart, committed people who share their knowledge with the community. Because of the size of Portland Nursery, it is extremely unlikely that another local garden center would have the resources necessary to operate at the rate Portland Nursery does. A commercial piece of property their size would be far and few between within city limits, not to mention that the horticulture industry is not an easy business to start. Our industry is both urban and rural and it is my view that Portland Nursery provides easy access to city residents to utilize all modes of transportation

Education within the horticulture industry is one that should be fostered, Portland Nursery has always held education as a top priority, for this reason they have supported education in many facets. They donate to over 400 local schools and non-profit organizations each year, employ a full-time Community Outreach Coordinator and have played an active role in getting gardens into Portland schools.

Portland Nursery is truly an asset to Portland, one that will not easily be replaced. I would respectfully ask you and the members of the Planning and Sustainability Commission to provide this community leader, economic and environmental steward of the city, the designation they need to be a viable business. Thank you and hope you believe, like we do, that economic vitality can go hand in hand with sustainability and long-term environmental health.

Warm regards,

Jeff Stone, Executive Director  
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