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PLANNING BUREAU

2015 MAR 13 P 1:24

Planning and Sustainability Commission
1900 SW Fourth Avenue
Portland, OR 97201

March 12th, 2014

Re: Draft 2035 Comprehensive Plan

Dear Commissioners:

I am very concerned about many aspects of the draft 2035 Comprehensive Plan. It is replete with ambiguous language and is missing metrics that could be used to evaluate whether the plan is working and if its goals are being met. As it stands, it appears to greatly dilute the power of Portland's neighbourhood associations. Also, under the current schedule many details won't be finalised until after it is adopted by your office and forwarded to the City Council. This is the antithesis of community involvement.

I ask that at the very minimum the draft plan should be amended to:

- require the city to coordinate land-use planning by providing notice of official hearings to the neighbourhood associations, as in the current plan;
- that neighbourhoods continue to be defined by their association and geographic boundaries, and the existing role of neighbourhood associations not only be retained but expanded;
- that you create a seat for each neighbourhood coalition on the commission and on all major land-use committees.

Meaningful neighbourhood involvement is essential if Portland is to attempt to maintain a livable city. This is a draft plan and I respectfully ask you to consider the very constructive feedback you are being provided by thoughtful, knowledgeable and caring residents.

Yours sincerely,

