

Good evening,

My name is Sarah Taylor

I have come to see you tonight from the small village of Linnton; a place nestled between the Tualatin Mountains, Forest Park, Willamette River and Sauvie Island.

For tens of thousands of years, humans recognized the value of this landscape with its confluence of two major rivers, rich wetlands, and wildlife as a perfect place for settlements. It was indeed the first European settlement in the Portland area in the 1800's.

Linnton's place in the area's natural and political history has slowly been eroded, as this once idyllic piece of bottomland has been transformed into highway, railroad and industrial storage.

We believe that Linnton is poised to offer Portland a remarkable refurbished, riverfront community with access to natural areas, commercial zones for employment and affordable housing.

When I wander First Street, I can see that "downtown" Linnton is not a working waterfront. The once busy piers are empty and cut off from the village. It is now a vast display of empty lots, deserted vehicles, and industrial storage. Nothing is dependent on a once vibrant waterfront. Our small, hillside roads are clogged with people driving to work in St Helens and Beaverton. A walk, ride and bike culture to Swan Island and Portland is not possible.

In a city, that is begging for more small communities and affordable housing I ask you to consider Linnton. Dream with us as we work to transform the area from 107th to 112th into a historically and environmentally significant town center with opportunities for housing, employment and recreation from St Helens Road to the Willamette Greenway.

Clear this greenway of industrial storage with few jobs and replace it with a model neighborhood. We made this request in 2005 and stand before you making it once again. I invite you to walk with us and see what has become of the once proud villages of Linnton. Walk with me and see what can be.

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