

Good morning City Council, my name is Sophie Weir and I'm a recent graduate of Cleveland high school, representing the Portland Youth Climate Council. For the past two years, our group has been powered by the voices of local youth and sustained by our drive to defend our right to a healthy future.

Today, we're here for the second time to address the harmful gaps in the Portland Tree Code. When the city first adopted the code back in 2011, they exempted industrial properties in an effort to meet a land quota for industrial zoned lands. Those quotas have been met since 2017, yet the code hasn't been updated. What's more, the provision that protects some of Portland's largest trees includes a sunset clause set for December of 2019, which will leave older growth trees unprotected.

The Portland Tree code is failing at its job. Instead of protecting trees, it allows commercial and industrial landowners to destroy precious tree cover, violating our city's pledge to work towards a green future. We call on the city to remove these commercial and industrial exemptions, as well as the sunset clause, before it's too late.

As climate change intensifies, preserving an urban tree canopy will prove invaluable. Not only do trees sequester large amounts of carbon, they also decrease local air temperature and promote healthy air quality. These properties will mitigate the effects of rising global temperatures, increased wildfire frequency and intensity, ozone pollution, and more in the city of Portland.

We have spoken with representatives of various city departments regarding this issue, including The Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, Urban Forestry Unit, and Nick Fish's office. None of them were able to take real action. We attended a meeting for the Climate Emergency Resolution and found that the city may consider amendments to the Tree Code come January. However, "consider" isn't enough in a time when we need to be protecting trees at absolutely every opportunity we have.

As one of my fellow PYCC members said in a speech at the recent Zenith forum, "When you see your house is on fire, you run out, but you do not run away - you call the fire department, and today we are calling on you to put this fire out."

No one has the power to step up to the plate and make the changes we need to the Tree Code except you. You have the choice to either protect our communities and climate when it's needed most, or to exchange people and planet for profit. Which will you choose?

We ask you: What will it take for you to take immediate action to remove the commercial and industrial exemptions, as well as the sunset clause, from the Tree Code?

From: [Jan Zuckerman](#)
To: [McClymont, Keelan](#)
Subject: Reserve Sept 11 slot
Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2019 11:38:09 PM

Dear Keelan,

I am writing to request a 3 min slot for a Portland Youth Climate Council member to address City Council at the September 11 meeting.

The youth member will speak about the need to take action on the climate crisis.

Thank you,

Jan Zuckerman
PYCC Youth Mentor
503-481-7033

Sent from my iPhone


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Request of Portland Youth Climate Council to address Council regarding the need to take action on the climate crisis (Communication)

SEP 11 2019
PLACED ON FILE

SEP 03 2019

Filed _____
MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 
Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Hardesty		
4. Eudaly		
Wheeler		