

# Amy Risch

**#331607 | April 7, 2022**

## **Testimony to Portland City Council on the Environmental Overlay Zone Map Correction Project, Recommended Draft**

I am writing to emphasize the importance of expanding conservation overlays in the NW Skyline Crest/Penridge and Brynwood areas. We have lived on Skyline Crest Rd for over 24 years and have experienced extreme weather events, high winds, and landslides that come with living at high altitude in the west hills. (The summit of Cornell Mountain is higher than Council Crest, the highest point within Portland city limits.) Despite its challenges, we love the area and deeply value the beauty and nearby forests and natural areas. There are forested areas in the neighborhood that I believe should be provided the additional protection of a conservation overlay. The forest in between NW Skyline Crest Rd and NW Penridge is currently an Environmental Protection Zone. There are Conservation overlays to the north and south of the area. Connecting the conservation areas would protect the wildlife thoroughfares which are a bottleneck for moving through the area. We see coyotes and deer traveling through the area on a daily basis from spring-fall and at night hear owls and coyotes yipping from dens located there. Any additional construction would encroach on their habitat and push their paths to Skyline Blvd. Additionally, the runoff from this hill is significant and flows down Cornell and into Balch Creek. Any development would increase risk of landslides and fallen trees on the steep slopes (>25 degrees) due to the increased high-wind exposure. This area is populated with native plants and trees - a rare oasis that has not been overrun by ivy and other invasive species. Any future development would be a significant disruption to native plants and animals; the continuity of forests is important in supporting species with larger habitat requirements. Failure to provide the maximum protection the area risks removal of very old trees, disruption of wildlife, watershed damage, and increase landslide and fallen tree risk. We encourage the city to expand conservation protections of this natural area and ensure the safety and livability of our beautiful city. Sincerely, Amy Risch 808 NW Skyline Crest Rd

Testimony is presented without formatting.