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Testimony to the Planning and Sustainability Commission on the Floodplain Resilience Plan, Proposed Draft

The PSC should adopt the entire Floodplain Resilience Plan which will protect our communities against the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events, protect water quality, and provide fish and wildlife habitat. It is irresponsible and entirely inconsistent with the City's Climate Action Plan and Climate Emergency Work Plan to not adequately protect floodplains. Cities across the United States have been hit with major flood events in recent years and Portland has its own tragic history at Vanport. We have had major flooding as recently as last spring. The plan does not stop all floodplain development but it does increase protections for floodplains and requires real mitigation when floodplains are developed to compensate for the impacts. This puts the costs where they belong--on developers rather than on the community. The City must adopt the whole plan. Removal of Title 24 Amendments which require that when developers fill floodplains, they also create an equal amount of new floodplain nearby is not acceptable. It guts one of the most important parts of the plan. Title 24 protections must be restored. The City postponed addressing some industrial lands along the river and Columbia River to a later phase of the process. As soon as this plan is adopted it must expedite developing floodplain protections on all industrial lands. These lands include some of our most important floodplains. We have known for decades that floodplain development puts our communities and environment in harm's way. We have seen city after city in the United States suffer catastrophic floods and we have seen flooding in our own communities. It's time to stop talking about climate resilience and actually take steps to do something about it. The choice is clear: rich, irresponsible developers or safe healthy communities, clean water and salmon.

Testimony is presented without formatting.