

To the Planning and Sustainability Commission:

My name is Hillarie Hunt. I have been a homeowner and resident of Hayden Island since 2001.

I was so proud of you last year when you told us you would not allow the Port of Portland to annex and rezone 300 acres of West Hayden Island for industrial development unless the Port completely mitigated for impacts to the environment and the local community in a way that resulted in a net increase in ecosystem function. It was the right decision then, and it's right now; therefore, I implore you to keep faith with the community by rejecting the West Hayden Island designations in the latest draft of the Portland Comprehensive Plan.

This draft Comp Plan does nothing to ensure the Port will be accountable for its impacts on the community and environment. With it, the Planning Bureau has done an end-run around five years of public process and has turned its back on the health of our communities and our environment.

The PSC made a promise to the community that it would not recommend allowing WHI development to move forward without a binding agreement in place that the Port of Portland fully mitigate for all impacts to the environment and the community. The draft Comp Plan completely backs out of that commitment, designating 300 acres for industrial development and making it a major part of the City's industrial land strategy. It does nothing to ensure the Port will be accountable for its impacts on the community and environment.

The PSC should remove the section on West Hayden Island from the Comp Plan and instead retain its current zoning designations or designate it as Open Space. It should not be designated for industrial zoning or future industrial development.

The City should not convert critical natural areas or Open Spaces to industrial use. If the City needs more industrial land, it should focus on cleaning up its 900 acres of brownfields, intensifying use of its industrial land base, and prevent organizations like the Port of Portland from converting existing industrial lands to other uses in order to make a profit.

West Hayden Island is one of Portland's most important natural areas. It provides irreplaceable habitat for federally-listed salmon and imperiled bird, bat, and amphibian species. It is an amazing place where you can see nesting bald eagles and rapidly disappearing species like pileated woodpeckers and western meadowlarks. Please save West Hayden Island and provide long-term protection to ensure a balance in our urban landscape, so that generations to come may enjoy the wonders of West Hayden Island.

You got it right last year when you said, "no development without complete mitigation." You should honor that pledge to the community now. PLEASE reject the West Hayden Island designations in the draft Comprehensive Plan.

Sincerely,
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