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Sent: Monday, November 03, 2014 11:58 AM

To: PDX Comp Plan

Subject: Comprehensive Plan Testimony

Proposed Change #297 - rezone a section of Broadmoor Golf Course to IG2 - Industrial

The Portland Planning Commission

To whom it may concern,

I've been a public artist, college professor, contractor, golfer, and conservationist in Portland since 1976. I moved here with the fertile hope of all those possibilities coupled with access to nature, the intimacy of a small town and the benefits of living in a culturally diverse city. I didn't have to drive for hours to see a V of swans migrating south, eagles nesting, or wonder at the scars from the Missoula Flood on the walls of the Columbia River.

What has distinguished Portland from so many other developed urban centers has been its ability to combine access to natural spaces with urban living. We have the largest city park in the nation, Forest Park. Our many inner city golf courses mirror the natural state of Forest Park - Eastmoreland Golf Course and Broadmoor Golf Course quickly come to mind. These wetland and natural spaces are public and, versus private membership only, are available to anyone. They are also a much needed habitat for the hundreds of varieties of birds, bees and animals vital to the health of our city environment.

Storm water run-off and flood control has been everywhere in the news lately with good reason, and our recent storms have underlined the concern. The recent construction of the big pipe for storm water management, bio-swale construction citywide, the campaign to disconnect rainwater downspouts from city sewers, all point to the wisdom of letting rainwater soak back into the ground to control sewage spilling directly into our rivers and to recharge our depleted aquifers.

The entire flood plain of the Columbia Slough is not only irreplaceable habitat for thousands of year round and migrating birds, it is historic flood and storm control for the Columbia River. You do not need to be a scientist to look at the Columbia River and realize paving its flood plains and banks with concrete for industrial use is a tragic use of the land. The many flood plains and sloughs evolved over millennia to allow water to be reabsorbed by the ground. These wetlands were also perfect breeding grounds for diverse wildlife. It is unique for our city to have a national reputation for wildlife diversity. I would encourage you all to take a fall walk around the Broadmoor Golf Course. It's free to walk on soft ground, easy on your joints and inspiring to see the thousands of migrating geese, swans, ducks, herons and even pelicans, that crowd the sky and slough. It will be a rare experience you will remember for a very long time. Leaving the ground open to replenish our challenged water reserves will be a decision which your children will remember long after the few dollars gained by taxes will have been spent and forgotten.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

My regards,

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