

Dear Planning and Sustainability Commission,

Columbia Steel Casting Co., Inc, operates a foundry, pattern shop and machine shop in North Portland on land owned by Heron Leasing Company. I am CEO and President of Columbia Steel Casting Co., Inc and a shareholder and Director of Heron Leasing. We were on record with Metro during the trail alignment process as opposing the south shore route and continue to strongly oppose a public trail across private industrial property. Nothing has changed our position since a letter was provided to Jane Hart of Metro in September of 2005. A copy of that letter is attached.

Martha B Cox, CEO  
Columbia Steel Casting Co., Inc.  
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Columbia Steel Casting Co., Inc.  
PO Box 83095  
Portland, OR 97283-0095

September 29, 2005

Ms. Jane Hart  
Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Dept.  
600 NE Grand Avenue  
Portland, OR 97232

RE: Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area Trail Study

Columbia Steel Casting Co., Inc. remains strongly opposed to a trail alignment through our property for the following reasons.

Security – There is both a concern for public safety and security concerns for our property and employees. I continue to be amazed at the brashness of thieves entering the property to the East of ours. They have pulled our fencing out, four-wheeled over the bank, cut of fence locks with bolt-cutters, stripped electrical wiring in the unoccupied buildings and even brought in equipment to steal the gutters off the building and removed steel tanks. In response, we have taken measures to limit access to our property with employee passes, enforcing use of visitor badges, restricted access routes and security guards. Even with posted notices of private property, there are still occasions that people looking for boat launches, nature trails, or alternate street routes have to be asked to leave. At public meetings, individuals have bragged about gaining access to our property via canoe. Public access via the camouflaged north side of our property would increase our exposure to this risk, with or without fencing.

Wetlands impact – a trail alignment along the top of bank on the Slough would require removal of trees and could impact bank stabilization. As part of our mitigation plan for a fill permit, we are required to make extensive plantings between the Slough and a long side channel on our property, right where the path would go.

Cost - A trail alignment below and immediately south of the top of bank would run through the Wapato wetlands and would require construction in a wetland with either a floating or elevated trail because the area is often inundated with water. There are many ditches, side channels and mini-sloughs to be traversed by a south shore trail alignment making it a very expensive option to provide compliance with ADA requirements.

Sincerely,

Martha B Cox,  
Chief Financial Officer