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**Sent:** Tuesday, September 13, 2016 9:44 AM  
**To:** Planning and Sustainability Commission <[psc@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:psc@portlandoregon.gov)>  
**Subject:** PSC Fossil Fuel Zoning Testimony

I am commenting today to remind all – all those whose job it is to oversee the planning and progress of Portland - This City, this Land, this Planet – I am here to remind you that we are stewards of this Earth. A steward is someone who has the job to protect and manage. It is the duty, then, to figure out what is best for the individuals, the town, and even the land itself and to use that knowledge to make plans and policies that will sustain those things. Like a 3 legged stool, all three must solidly exist. One not being more important than another.

Take the work of a farmer. A farmer knows that the goals of achieving a plentiful crop require care of the land. A crop that is planted might grow wonderfully the first year – but if the seeds are not saved, or if the soil is not cared for properly, successive years of abuse or neglect yield diminishing crops to an exponential degree.

Take the fisherman or the hunter. Those who hunt and fish know that a catch that empties the waters or clears the lands of the animals, is not sustainable. There is no future in hunting to extinction. Leaving enough wildlife behind ensures the future of the animal – but moreover – the ability to continue to hunt and fish in the years to come.

It is the responsibility of these people, who already intimately know the delicate balances they live around and among, to maintain that balance. They do it because they already know that to not do so, is disastrous. City folk, who have spent much time removed from nature, often forget there is a delicate balance. They live in a contrived world where it is easy to believe they are the masters of all resources – that there is an endless supply of whatever they should want. But it simply is not so.

Fossil Fuels have had their time. When the science was new, we did not know the ramifications of using this finite resource. We only saw the benefits of our new crop. But we are older and wiser, now. It is important to the health of our world, that we stop using fossil fuels. It is important to this city, that we make planning choices that protect our city, and moreover, our planet. So when big business comes knocking, looking for a place to set up their business where money is paramount to environmental ethics, please give them a loud “no” for an answer. Our health depends on it. Thank you.

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