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To: kevin.c.cook@multco.us

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Submitted values are:

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Testimony:

I'm a mountain biker and member of the Northwest Trail Alliance and I strongly support Metro's efforts to create trails for off-road cycling in the North Tualatin Mountains.

Multnomah County should approve the Master Plan that Metro has put together. The plan has followed a scientific approach to assessing the different characteristics of each parcel and how they contribute to the Metro's goals of preservation and conservation as well as incorporating feedback from the community to represent their desires for the uses of the land.

Mountain biking and other forms for recreation like hiking can co-exist as well as preserving critical habitat through thoughtful trail creation. You can see this today on Powell Butte. Certain trails are shared between cyclists and non-cyclists and others are restricted while large areas are protected for wildlife. It's a fantastic place to ride just before sunset when the birds and other animals come out and the views from top give you that feeling of being in nature that's so hard to get these days with development encroaching on our wild spaces from all sides.

Over the last 20+ years and especially in the last five, I've seen more and more people on the local trails as people discover how fun off-road cycling is and how it's a great way to get exercise, explore nature and spend time with you friends and family. This is great of course but it's also making places more crowded so we desperately need more LOCAL places to ride, especially for beginners and families. Today, when I want to ride on soft-surfaces with my kids without driving 45 minutes, the Leif Erickson trail in Forest Park is really our only option. Powell Butte and Gateway Green are too difficult for them and as much as I like Gateway Green, it's right next to a freeway and not the natural experience I would like to share with them.

Given the abundance of natural spaces around Portland, it is a shame that we don't have more local places for off road cycling so that's why this proposal is so important. The North Tualatin Mountains are a unique opportunity to create a nearby area for off road cycling in natural areas. I personally supported the Gateway Green project with monetary donations as well as volunteer hours and know that Northwest Trail Alliance members would eagerly step up to help build and maintain trails. On a broader level, I voted for the Metro bond measures in the hopes that they would be used for to fund projects that balanced conservation and recreation like the North Tualatin Mountains.

Thank you.

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