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March 14, 2023

To: Multnomah County Land Use Hearings Officer

RE: Portland Water Bureau Treatment Plant

I am writing to express my strong disapproval of the Portland Water Bureau trying to take **PRIME** farmland to site their water filtration plant. The land they are planning to take is some of the finest farmland in the east Multnomah County area, specifically around Carpenter Lane, Dodge Park Blvd., and Lusted Rd. I am not sure if the land is zoned EFU or MUA but placing a 100 acre industrial plant on either of these zonings would never be acceptable in any other case. This would create a strong precedence for future developments trying to encroach on farmland.

My property is owned by my wife and I as Shelley L. Ekstrom, LLC and is located between Dodge Park Blvd. and Lusted Rd. at 33304 SE Lusted Rd., Tax lot1S4DE 21A 5L00900, Acct #994210630. This land is leased to Ekstrom & Schmidt Nursery, LLC and is a very productive farm for them.

The Portland Water Bureau plans to place two 5 ½' pipes on the eastern property line of the property that would be roughly 50-100' wide and run the length of the property, taking about 4 acres of prime farm land out of production. This equates to 38,000 to 40,000 plants per year with a value of about \$500,00 per year. At the NE property corner where the property connects to Lusted Rd., the Portland Water Bureau wants to locate a valving station that would require a large building and an additional acre of land. This would be roughly 5 acres of land in total that are at risk of being taken out of productive farming.

The Portland Water Bureau communicated to us that they will replace the layers of soil exactly how they are now, so the land will not be harmed. Anyone with the slightest bit of soil or geological knowledge, knows that is not possible, especially a farmer.

I have farmed in this area for over 40 years and farmed over the existing Portland Water Bureau pipelines on several different properties where the old pipes were laid in the 1930's. The soil and plant growth has never been the same as the natural undisturbed soil. I'm not sure whether it is the changes of the interface between the layers of soil or the compaction from equipment or a combination of both issues. The production of the soil in terms of plant growth is not the same. In addition, there is the issue of uncovering old weed seeds that have been buried for years. Bringing them up to the surface allows them to come back to life (Horsetail Rush in particular). Thus, creating a problem.

I know one of the purposes of the Land Use Board has been to protect farm land from commercial encroachment in rural areas like this. Hopefully that is still the case.

I have not even spoken to the problems we as farmers will have on the local roads considering the addition of thousands of heavy trucks on the already crumbling roads in the area if this construction project goes through.

Please keep up your mission and reject the Portland Water Bureau's application for a permit and keep them from destroying our farmland.

Sincerely,

James Ekstrom
Shelley L. Ekstrom, LLC