



LUP Hearings &lt;lup-hearings@multco.us&gt;

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**Testimony in remand hearing case: T3-2022-16220 from Ron Roberts**

1 message

**Carpenter Lane Farm** <carpenterlanefarm@gmail.com>

Mon, May 19, 2025 at 9:36 AM

To: lup-hearings@multco.us

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Please add the following testimony to the record in the Remand case of T3-2022-16220

Date: May 19, 2025

RE: Response to S36; Soils and Ag Land as a Natural Resource

Comment on PWB Filtration Project – Opposition Based on negative impacts to Natural Resources

Dear Hearings Officer Fancher,

I've farmed the land at the end of Carpenter Lane for decades. I founded Roberts Farms, Inc. here. I retired from full time farming as co-Owner of a local nursery on the same land, and continue to own the land next to the project site. I want to speak directly about the quality of the soil and why this land should never be considered for an industrial-scale water treatment facility.

Years ago, I had the opportunity to purchase farmland down on Dodge Park Boulevard. But I passed on that chance. Why? Because the soil at Carpenter Lane was unlike anything else in the area. It was the best soil I'd ever worked with—and every farmer knows that you don't leave land like that. The structure, the drainage, the productivity—it's unmatched. That's why I stayed, even though the other fields were less than 2 miles away.

The 95-acre parcel in question includes some of the most productive Class II soil in the state. It is not just farmland—it's a natural resource. And it's not just dirt - it's soil, a living system and part of the environment. Farmers depend not just on the surface, but on everything that supports it: groundwater, natural springs, perched water systems, and seasonal drainage. The proposed project threatens those systems, and once they're disturbed, they don't come back.

The Portland Water Bureau has argued that they bought this land decades ago for a project like this. But ownership does not change the fact that the land has always been zoned for farm use and to protect the area from industrial projects such as this. A project of this nature was never permitted under that zoning—until the sudden and suspicious removal of Condition 'i' from the County Code shortly before this project was first announced to city council.

It's not just the land we lose—it's the natural systems, the history, and the future it supports. The scale of the proposed filtration plant will have unavoidable impacts on the surrounding land, soils, and water resources. As a farmer who knows this land deeply and personally, I can say with confidence: this is the wrong project in the wrong place. If our land use laws don't protect the vital and irreplaceable resource that is farmland, who will?

I respectfully urge the Hearings Officer to deny this application based on the highly significant and negative impacts to the natural resources in this protected area known as the West of the Sandy River Rural Reserve.

Sincerely,

Ron Roberts

Local multi-generation farmer &amp; landowner on Carpenter Lane

Exhibit U.12