

(Case File: T3-2022-16220)

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I moved here in 1985 from the Colorado mountains. It was a big adjustment moving into Portland and I vowed to find the beauty and quiet that I had back in Colorado. It took me until 2016 to find that piece of Heaven with the promise that we were in a “no build” zone and to never have that noise, pollution and population of the city.

Our 5 acres is on Bluff Road right across from the proposed Water Filtration Plant. I live here with my oldest daughter, her husband and 4 children and my youngest daughter that has Downs Syndrome. This is to be our Legacy Property to be passed down from generation to generation. The vision given to me in Colorado is the exact one here as I look across the fields and trees. We have made this into a working farm where we have cows, chickens and a big garden to support the family.

Every morning we wake up to the birds singing. At night we look into the sky’s expanse and hear the owls hooting. There is almost daily sightings of hawks and an eagle or two. The coyotes run through our property and numerous other wild animals leaving footprints or other visible reminders that this is a safe place for them.

My grandchildren not only share in the taking care of the land and what we have strived to build into it but to have been able to see the beauty of Gods natural creation. There are no sounds of the city and smells from trucks driving by but the beauty of the trees that paint the landscape in all its glory - in all the seasons. The peace wraps around us like a big hug.

We have nurseries in the front and in the back of us and love the sounds of tractors and the songs of the workers and the awe of watching the care and progress of growing trees. Only on our country roads can you see and hear the tractors going from one field to another. This is seen because we are outside and not hiding inside like in the city.

With Portland Water Bureau proposing to build and operate an INDUSTRIAL facility across the street from us we will lose all of this. We will lose all the beauty of this area. We will lose what took years for me to find. Even if they add the proposed trees surrounding their plant there will still be the sounds (the running of the plant plus the trucks traveling to and from) and the smells (the diesel from the trucks and the chemicals) and the dark expanse of the sky will be dulled from their lights from the INDUSTRIAL plant. Even with the raping of the land to put in the pipes needed to transport the water takes away from the whole continuity of this beautiful land.

Even if we were to plant trees around OUR property it would never be the same as it is now and throw us right back into the city. The city where we moved from because we wanted the peace, security and little bit of Heaven.