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Our family has lived in the Orient area for over three decades. We choose to live here because it is quiet and rural, with creeks, farming and natural areas nearby. We live across the street from a tree nursery and have another one behind us. Our home is less than a quarter mile to Dodge Park Blvd., and our kids took the school bus to Orient Schools and Sam Barlow high school on our country roads. Drivers are prepared to slow down and share the road with tractors as well as school buses out this way.

We know our neighbors, interact with them, and we watch out for one another. Our family has driven, walked, run and biked on the roads surrounding us. We appreciate the safety of our roads. Middle school and high school athletes frequently run on the roads out here. Our favorite go-to bike ride over the years has been to Carpenter Lane, because it's a quiet, peaceful road with little traffic, and with views of Mt. Hood.

Multitudes of birds live and travel through and above our neighborhood, including larger birds such as Red Tail Hawks, Coopers Hawks, Osprey, Great Blue Herons and the occasional Pileated Woodpecker. We love seeing all types of birds and getting to recognize their calls. Because the sky here is relatively dark at night, we put out lawn chairs and view shooting stars during meteor showers. We treasure these aspects of living here.

It's astounding that the City of Portland and the Portland Water Bureau are proposing to build a huge industrial plant on land which is not zoned for it. The quiet, rural nature of our area would be forever changed if approval were given for this project. I understand that the site of nearly 100 acres for the proposed filtration plant was supposed to be designated a Metro Rural Reserve. That designation fits the local area much more closely than a huge filtration plant does. Noise and light pollution will provide grave consequences for area birds and mammals. Damage to our watershed is a distinct possibility.

The required years of construction alone will severely impact the safety of our roads, with each of the three area schools (start times from 7:35-9:05 a.m. and release times from 2:30-3:35 p.m.) running multiple bus routes on the same small rural roads that dump trucks, construction vehicles and eventually trucks carrying hazardous chemicals/waste products for the project would use.

I feel that the project is inconsistent with the area and community in which it is proposed to be placed.