

Katrina Dawson
36605 SE Dodge Park Blvd. Boring, OR 97009
Character of the Area
[Case File: T3-2022-16220]

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Katrina Dawson and I am a mother of 4 children. My husband and children and I live on Dodge Park Blvd. All 4 of my children have had the blessings of growing up for some part of their childhood out here off of Dodge Park Blvd. My older two children spent the first 6-10 years of their lives growing up in Gresham, close to the Rockwood area. Their young childhood looked very different from the younger years of their two younger siblings, who have spend the entirety of their lives out here in this beautiful area. Living in Gresham, my kids could only play in the backyard that was fenced. They couldn't play in the front yard unless I was standing out there with them. Riding their bikes meant I had to be right out there carefully watching to make sure that no one came driving rapidly through the neighborhood and hit them. They grew up hearing sirens on a regular basis through the night and day. My younger children have had a childhood that looked very different, just because of this area and environment that we live in today. They spend most of their time outside playing in the fields or riding their bikes or even skateboarding up and down our driveway. When it snows they can sled and snowboard down the hill. There is never a fear of someone hitting them with a car or someone taking them from the sidewalk. It is safe out here, in our own little slice of heaven.

For my family now, we very rarely hear sirens during the day or the night. Instead we wake up to the sound of a chorus of birds singing outside our windows, or fall asleep the the two owls that call back and forth through the trees. We can hear the frogs croaking in the drainage pond, or the wind rushing through the tops of the stand of trees behind the house. If you stand in the quiet of the morning you can hear the rushing of the Sandy River in the distance. In the middle of the day, if you pause and listen you can actually hear the sound of the train on the tracks all the way down in Troutdale. You see out here we don't have the multiple layers of sounds of city life that drowned everything else out. We get to hear nature waking up or going to sleep. It is serene and calm.

At times it is so quiet that if cyclists are riding down Dodge park, which happens frequently, you can hear them talking to each other because the sound of their voices carries through the trees. There isn't the sound of machines constantly running to drowned them out.

We love go outside at night and look up at the stars. Because we don't have the constant light from the street lights, billboards, shopping centers, and what not polluting the pure dark of the sky. We get to see the actual stars, or even can catch a glimpse of the international space station and it passes by in the night.

During the summers, in the cool of the morning I love going out into my garden and watering the plants and watching the sun rise over the trees. It is my quiet place. I can pause to think and plan. We can watch the rabbits bound across our field, or even the deer that wander onto our place looking for food.

My older two children have learned to drive a car on the country roads out here. It has given us great peace to know that it is a slower pace. They learned on these roads until we felt comfortable taking them into town to drive. We didn't have to worry about a lot of traffic for them have to navigate when they first started this very seriously task of maneuvering a car.

You see when we made the choice to move out here, we were choosing a different way of life. We gave up some of the convenience of living in the city, like access to high speed wifi for inexpensive and other such things. We knew it would cost us more or even some of those conveniences were not available to us, but that was less important to us than the safety and the quiet. We chose to live life differently for a reason. Building a plant out here and dropping it in the middle of this quiet and peaceful place would change all of that for good.

In short what we get to enjoy living out here will forever be altered should this plant be dropped into the middle of this beautiful quiet environment.

Thank you for your time,
Katrina Dawson