

Character of the Area
[Case File: T3-2022-16220]

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To Whom it May Concern,

Hi, my name is Kelsey Betsill and I am a resident of Boring, OR. My husband and I bought a 1970's home on 5 acres in Boring in 2013. It was our dream. We live on 362nd ave, a country road, right off of Bluff road. When we bought our home, it was the big escape. We finally made it out of the noisy city living. We found peace, quiet and a serene place to relax after a day of hard work in the city. The first year living here we were amazed by the bald eagles that fly above our property, deer grazing our field, the occasional coyote, bunny rabbits, owls, and although only caught on a game camera, a cougar every now and then.

This area is nearly perfect. Our neighbors are wonderful. Everyone cares for one and another, we watch over our places when one is gone, we drop off soup when one of us is sick. It's a unity that wasn't expected at first but we are so very grateful for.

9 years being here and now my husband and I have two beautiful children. Ages 7 and 5, those boys are our whole world. When you have kids, it appoints meaning to things that you were unaware of before, partially why I'm writing you this letter.

I'm writing to you today to plead to you to oppose the Portland Water Bureau's Water filtration project/plant that is proposed to go down the street from my home on Carpenter Lane.

Right down the street from Oregon Trail Academy, the school in which my children attend, this proposed filtration plant will turn our community upside down. It will have a huge impact our community safety, health and environment. As you might know, the construction alone will be a 4+ year project. Based off of the PWB's application, it's projected that during the 4 year construction period, 1000 additional vehicles per weekday will be on our country roads. There are 3 main roads for these vehicles to use in which pass by Oregon Trail Academy, Cedar Ridge Middle School, Sandy High School, Nass Elementary and Firwood Elementary. The construction of the filtration plant as well as its daily operations, will directly affect our children's safety and those who drive our roads. There will be rerouted traffic, danger of construction vehicles who aren't accustomed to our roads, school bus stops, speed limits, after school sports etc. The construction of the project alone will have highly negative effects on schools and bus/routes.

These construction vehicles will be passing by Sandy High school. According to the CDC, Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause for Teen death in the United States. Teens are already the highest risk factor, if this plant goes in, can we afford to increase the risk of death for teen drivers? It's our job as Parents, Teachers, School Board Members, Community Members and many others, to keep our children safe. Putting this filtration plant in at this location would propose way too many threats than benefits.

As a resident, it's my fear that with such an increase of traffic, construction, and rerouted traffic, that if there was an emergency, then would the first responders be able to make it in

time? What a terrible thing to think about, that emergency services would be unavailable or delayed.

The environmental factors just can't be ignored. The additional pollution caused by the construction and the everyday processes of the filtration plant alone will destroy our clean waters and environment. This would impact not only our own health but the wildlife. Clearing vegetation no doubt destroys wildlife and their habitats. This has been their home for generations and the with the construction of the plant as well as the chemicals it would use on a daily basis would destroy the beautiful habitats and wildlife already in place.

Lastly, how will we cope with the 1000+ deliveries every year of the hazardous chemicals going to and from the filtration plant? I'm sure that we will be at increased risk for that as well because there would be risk of accident during transportation as an addition.

The Portland Water Bureau has many options of where this proposed filtration plant could be located, yet they chose the least ideal one. It's sad that they do not fully share the risks to our safety, our children's safety, the environment, and our transportation system. I urge you to stand with me in opposing this treatment plant. What will my neighborhood look like if this goes in? Will I still be able to hear the birds chirping when I walk out my front door? Will the deer have a home? Will I be able to drink my well water without worrying about what chemical exposures it will have? Will I be able to travel on our country roads without additional risk of car accident, injury or death? Will my children be safe at school as 1000+ construction vehicles pass by their school with no additional school zone assistance? Will our roads be safe as over 1000+ hazardous chemical deliveries a year travel them regardless of the weather or road conditions?

It is our job to protect our community, environment, and especially our children, THE FUTURE. What's more important than the future and their health and education?

-Kelsey Betsill
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