

## Character of the Area – Case T-3-2022-16220

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I am a City girl – born and raised in Portland. My husband was raised in the country. He always wanted to have some space around us, but I couldn't imagine not living in a residential neighborhood.

Twelve years ago I agreed to at least look for a place with an acre out in the country. We found our home on Bluff Road. I absolutely love our home in the country -- being able to enjoy my garden, enjoy the peace and privacy of my home, wake up to the sound of doves welcoming the morning and the curiosity of the robins as they watch me care for my flowers. No more weaving through neighborhood streets lined with cars day and night and look alike houses all crammed together with tiny backyards. Instead, I leave via my turn-around driveway and drive past fields filled with nursery stock, lovely old farm houses and barns as well as beautiful modern homes and the quiet town of Orient. We truly found the home and neighborhood we wish to live out the rest of our years.

You can imagine our surprise when we found a note on our front door from a neighbor advising us of a filtration plant across the street above the Surface Nursery property. **Now this isn't just a small industrial building – it is currently a proposed 45 acre facility with plans to expand in the future.– Let's put that in perspective: 45 acres is 1,960,200 sq ft. – Clackamas Town Center's total retail space is 1.5 Million. How can anyone say this won't change the character of our community?!**

Why is this happening? Oh yes, PWB explained the cryptosporidium issue so originally I thought we would just have to accept this disruption to our country life. But then I heard there was a EPA approved option; (UV) and UV+Ozone which meant no additional chemicals to the water and minimal disruption to the community at a much less cost. We have some of the purest water in the world. Why choose an expensive filtration plant? UV is used in New York, LA, San Francisco and Seattle. Why not here?

I can't imagine the concrete trucks on our narrow, poorly kept roads. The School District has already expressed their safety concerns for our children who walk on these roads to catch their school bus. These roads are not only narrow but curvy and the "dips" are risky. I am concerned that people behind a slow moving truck may pull out to pass not realizing you can't see the oncoming traffic due to the road conditions. Now factor in the bicyclists who enjoy riding in a country setting and folks walking or running along the narrow shoulders.... Looks like a disaster waiting to happen. Everyone will be so sorry, but it will be too late. Once this project is started, there will be no turning back -- the rural life we know and love will be gone and we will have to live with the dangerous roads, fear of chemical spills, excessive truck traffic, and only the **memory of what once was.**