

Character of the Area

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4. Please describe the “character of the area” of where you live, and what do you like about it? The more details the better! (See guidance sheet for ideas & examples) Our family has lived in the area near Oxbow Park and YMCA camp Collins for 48 years. Both of our children were raised out here and went from grade school thru high school in the Gresham Barlow school District. They grew up riding their bikes, hiking the woods in Oxbow and Camp Collins, swimming in the Wild and Scenic Sandy river, and exploring nature in all its forms. We raised our boys to respect Mother Earth as well as respecting other people. Our family felt privileged to be able to feel safe out here, to breathe clean air, and enjoy the peace and quiet that comes with living in our rural area, dark skies at night and away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Traffic decreases dramatically the further east of Gresham you go. So coming home from town is ALWAYS a welcome feeling. The air is cleaner, the surroundings more lush, the stars brighter. There is a sense of serenity that could be forever destroyed if for some reason this filtration plant is allowed to be built in our beautiful area that we all treasure and hold dearly.

I hate to imagine what our lives will be like if over 308,000 heavy truck trips are allowed in our area over the next 5 years.!!! Add in the “work force” traffic and that number climbs to over a million cars and oversized trucks that will be required for the duration of construction that the PWB is proposing. The noise, the air pollution, the traffic jams will be in stark contrast to what it is like out here now. The safety of our school kids, bicyclists, joggers, visitors to Oxbow and YMCA Camp Collins and drivers who live out here and need to travel these roads for work will be in jeopardy. Our roads were never built to support the kind of vehicles that will be used in order to transport the materials needed for a mega plant. We would no longer have that feeling of safety and security which drew all of us to this rural lifestyle. If there is a serious injury or death due to excessive traffic, chemical spills, truck drivers going to fast, icy roads, or any of the reasons that could likely cause an accident due to crowded roads with no shoulders what are the consequences for allowing this project to go forward??? When residents and school districts and school bus services along with our emergency services tell you we are afraid for our and others safety and you chose to ignore it knowing what we all are telling you. Where does the buck stop? This project does not belong out here!!!!

It's ironic that in 2019 Multnomah County changed a provision in their code that was originally written to PREVENT this type of industry from ever being allowed out here. The code was rewritten to accomodate the PWB without any public process or any notification to area residents. Instead it was addressed as simply “housekeeping” The reason for that is not lost on us that live here.