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To Whom It May Concern:

When my wife, Leslie and I purchased our home on Carpenter lane nearly thirty years ago, we did so for a number of reasons. At the time, we lived in the City of Portland where I worked as a police officer. I wanted my family to live somewhere much safer than the city, as the writing was on the wall even then, that the city was declining and policies in place were only speeding that decline along.

We found that safer place at 34546 SE Carpenter Lane in 1993. I moved my wife and two young children into an 1896 farmhouse on a small acreage there. The neighbors were friendly and watched out for each other. Most importantly, the narrow farm road had minimal traffic, which moved at a safe pace and the area was safe for kids & critters, tractors, and farm workers. In addition, everyone knew everyone who belonged there; the odd individual up to mischief was usually easy to spot and get moving along.

The nature of the area is farming and small scale rural homesteads. Zoning kept it so and we all liked it that way. There are no body shops, mechanics businesses, or other industrial activities, because the zoning and land use laws prohibit private individuals from changing the nature of the neighborhood with noncompliant practices.

Now the City of Portland (my former employer) proposes to invade our rural setting with a huge industrial plant that was rejected from one of the City's own neighborhoods by angry residents. This large proposed industrial facility is intended to be plopped down at the end of our quiet little country lane, where it will sit, like a wart, in the middle of a bucolic viewshed. The necessary security lighting to accommodate such a facility will pollute our night sky. The required shipping in of materials and chemicals, which is a huge safety concern, will necessitate dozens of trips a day by large heavy trucks.

And this is only AFTER the plant is constructed.

I have no small amount of experience with this. After I retired from the Portland Police Bureau, I worked for a number of years for the City of West Linn. As in this case, an outside municipality owned a small water facility in a quiet, pleasant residential area near the Willamette River and had for years. Again, the outside municipality elected to undertake a massive construction project for their water system in the heart of this quiet neighborhood. Neighbors objected and were told their worries were not realistic, and the powers that be allowed this plan to proceed.

The project required extensive excavation, resulting in large cranes, and excavators being moved in and placed. The calls to the police department and city hall were constant. People's homes were being shaken by this equipment moving about. Noise was intrusive. The degradation of the streets was immediate. Once the equipment was in place, the hauling out of the displaced dirt was continuous.

Night and day. The disruption and discord continued. Complaints were so constant by the residents, that the City finally instructed us to just tell our residents "Sorry, you just have to deal with it."

That plant was a pumping station and much smaller than the proposed water filtration plant being proposed on Carpenter Lane. The West Linn project disrupted hundreds of peoples lives for the better part of a year. We are told the Carpenter Lane plant construction will take MULTIPLE YEARS! Multiple years of hundreds of truck trips a day, as well as the invasion of construction workers required to facilitate the placement of the plant.

In addition to the danger inherent in such a large volume of heavy vehicular traffic (as well as the road degradation), there is the added concern of criminal activity. It's no secret that there is a significant amount of meth usage in the construction trades. A number of drug arrests I made while working as a police officer were of individuals working in the trades. Any large influx of construction personnel is likely to include some of these folks, and with them the crimes committed by drug users.

In short, I see no reason to permit this proposed plant to proceed. As mentioned previously, state land use laws prohibit private citizens from disrupting a neighborhood with noncompliant activities and government should be required, when reasonable, to be a "good citizen" as well.

If indeed Portland Water Bureau must build this hugely complex and expensive filtration plant (as opposed to a simpler, much less expensive UV treatment facility that will accomplish the same mission), Carpenter Lane is NOT the appropriate location.

The logical placement of this edifice is near the source of the Bureau's water or at a terminus in an industrial region of the city being served. This would avoid the disruption of east county citizens lives and have the bonus of eliminating the hugely expensive portion of the construction process to connect the existing City's water pipeline to a filtration plant a mile away.

Respectfully submitted,

*Tom R Newberry*

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