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**To Whom It May Concern:**

My husband, Matt Presley, and I have been residents of McNamee Road since the spring of 2005 (over 12 years). Matt makes his living building furniture, and I have a psychotherapy practice. We chose to make our home in this area because we value the opportunity to serve as stewards for the wildlife and natural landscape, to protect it for generations to come.

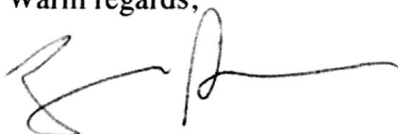
Our property is 1.7 miles (by road) from the intersection at highway 30, and less than ¼ mile from the Burlington Creek Natural Area (by land). Over the course of the last 12 years, Matt and I have spent a significant amount of time at Burlington Creek Natural Area (for the past 5 years, I have visited the natural area approximately 4-5 days per week). During much this time, we have had the pleasure of spotting diverse wildlife in this area, including bald eagles, elk, deer, coyote and rabbit. On several occasions, we viewed herds of elk numbering in the high teens. Matt and I have seen some of the same wildlife on our property, and have no doubt that wildlife is using the entire McNamee Road corridor for habitat and migration routes.

However, over the course of this past year my wildlife viewings have declined. This timing seems to coincide with forest thinning operations throughout Burlington Creek Forest earlier in the year. This operation was loud and considerable trash was unfortunately left behind (some of which is still present, including plastic buckets). I have not seen any elk in Burlington Creek this year, nor have I spotted elk tracks in the dirt or mud.

Along with many other local residents, Matt and I are concerned that the construction of a mountain-biking facility in the Burlington Creek Natural Area will have a profound negative impact on the wildlife who make their home in this area. In addition to the short-term disruption caused by construction of facilities, development of this property will invite a significant increase in human traffic, thus damaging or eliminating critical natural habitat for local wildlife.

A statement from Metro's website indicates Metro's commitment to protecting living aspects of the natural landscape: "Metro works with communities, businesses and residents in the Portland metropolitan area to chart a wise course for the future while protecting the things we love about this place." As residents of McNamee Road and tax-paying community members, we are disappointed in Metro's choice to prioritize development of a recreational facility over protection of wildlife. Rather than consulting with the local community, Metro has routinely disregarded our concerns about environmental impact. It is our hope that Metro will recognize the damaging consequences of disrupting this important wildlife habitat and withdraw their development plans.

Warm regards,



Zoë and Matt Presley  
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