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Testimony:

The Pacific NW is a remarkable region ripe with rich green space, mountains, and rivers. The people who live here, amidst this beauty, go to great lengths to protect their natural playground and all that the region supports.

I'm an avid mountain biker and skier. Being in the mountains and forests makes me feel at home. When I hike I feel within nature. When I ride and ski, I experience a dialogue between myself and nature. There's an energy exchange for which I am filled with gratitude.

The Portland community and the larger metro area has the opportunity to support a safe, eco-friendly and community based system of multi use trails that would enable mountain biking without harm to the region. If well done and designed with the co system in mind, dedicated riders will join the thousands who recreate in the North Tualatin Mountains.

Non-riders and urbanites may be unaware that the mountain biking community is dedicated to preservation of our natural resources. We actively work on trails to maintain trails, prevent and reduce erosion, and cultivate appreciation and awareness of the forests. We look out for one another and pick up after ourselves. Relatively new to the dirt-riding community, I will add that I have found riders to be very low key. Few riders exhibit selfishness; none have I met whom abuse the facilities.

By building a well planned facility, the Metro area will be supporting recreational athletes' passion, enable more ways for people to enjoy the park and even keep the dollar spent closer to home. I would add that the park development will, to a small degree, lower the carbon footprint of riders driving more than an hour each way to ride in Sandy, Timberline, Hood River and in Larch Mountain, Washington.

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