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Submitted values are:

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Testimony:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to support Metro's recommendation to include trails optimized for off-road cycling in the North Tualatin Mountains. As residents of Portland, my wife, friends, and I mountain bike weekly, but have to drive at least an hour to get to a trailhead. In a city with so much green space and so many cyclists, this should not be the case. Shared use trails can work in Portland--this has been demonstrated in urban areas all over the country in cities with less green space and as congested as New York, Pennsylvania, and Phoenix.

Further, scientific research has shown that mountain bikes impact the environment no more than hikers, and far less than equestrians. NWTA and IMBA have been building sustainable trails for mountain bikes on BLM, DNR, and USFS land a long time and would be great partners to help Metro on this project.

As a representative of the Fat Tire Farm Mountain Bike Company, I can attest to the growing need for mountain bike trails in the city of Portland. The population is growing, roads are becoming incredibly congested, the mountain bike community is growing, and there are still very few green spaces for mountain bikers to enjoy nature within the city. We sell hundreds of mountain bikes every year, yet there is still no singletrack accessible to bikes in Portland. The pressure is continuously building for access to trails in town. Sharing the North Tualatin Mountains for ALL trail users would create a great opportunity to relieve some of that pressure.

Thanks for your time.

Barry O'Connor

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