



September 4, 2019

Kevin Cook
1600 SE 190th Avenue
Portland OR 97233-5910

Re: Metro's North Tualatin Mountains Land Use Application

Mr. Cook,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on and support the Metro's North Tualatin Mountains (NTM) land use application. The Urban Greenspaces Institute (UGI) works across the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region to integrate greenspaces with the built environment. We engage with agencies, nonprofits, and the public on collaborative conservation initiatives and how to best leverage our limited public monies to achieve wildlife habitat connectivity, clean water, and public access to nature.

UGI strongly supports Metro's efforts to safeguard nature and develop thoughtful public access at the North Tualatin Mountains site. We have reviewed Metro's proposed plans and consulted with staff on their various measures to accommodate new public access, while protecting the site's ecological integrity and public assets. In particular, we support the site's shared use trails, and careful siting of new parking and trails to protect fish and wildlife habitat. The construction of public access improvements including: parking, a restroom, natural surface trails, bridges and wayfinding signs will expand opportunities for people to walk, hike, mountain bike and ride their horse, as they experience and enjoy nature close to home.

Metro's protection of hundreds of acres of upland forest and several miles of stream corridors in the North Tualatin Mountains will benefit fish and wildlife and protect water quality. In addition, this NTM proposal helps honor a promise to voters who helped pass the 1995 and 2006 bonds, and 2013 & 2016 levies to both protect fish and wildlife habitat, and provide public access to nature. Without providing thoughtful public access where appropriate, we risk jeopardizing public support for future regional parks and nature bonds and levies.

UGI appreciates how Metro led and conducted of an open and transparent planning process around the NTM site development. With public access improvements, we expect there will be

some small impacts to natural resources and the neighborhood. However, this project has an outsized benefit to the wider regional community that eclipse these small-scale impacts.

I urge Multnomah County to approve this worthy and important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Labbe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ted" being more prominent than the last name "Labbe".

Ted Labbe, Executive Director

503-758-9562

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