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Letter to Mayor Vera Katz

Ernest Bonner

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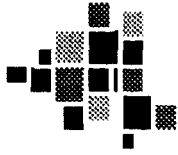
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Ernie Bonner
Portland, Oregon

Nov. 22, 1998

Mayor Vera Katz and Commissioners
City Hall
City of Portland
Portland, OR 97204

Mayor Katz and Commissioners:

I just received notice of a resolution proposed by Commissioner Kafoury—to be introduced at City Council on Wednesday. The resolution calls for a review of the current Willamette River Greenway regulations.

I enthusiastically endorse such a resolution, for two reasons:

1. *The Willamette River is, in the opinion of many, Portland's greatest natural asset. It is a treasure to both residents and visitors. It promises a place for East and West-Siders to meet. Its restoration in the recent past was an accomplishment of major proportions. The status of the river and the city's plans for its future are understandably of great concern among citizens in all of our communities—including those younger citizens on whom the future of Portland depends (see transcript of recent Franklin High presentation at the Central City Summit, where 3 out of 5 of their major recommendations had to do with the Willamette River). A periodic report on this major resource would be logical for that reason alone.*

2. But there is another reason. Effective stewardship through planning requires careful monitoring of development as well as of the conditions within which that development occurs. This is all the more so for those important elements of a city, like the Willamette River. Monitoring of development, and assessment of changing conditions, is not easy nor cheap. And that is why it is not done nearly as often as it should be. In this case, a sincere appraisal of how the regulations in the Willamette Greenway are working (and a look at how development along the river is proceeding) is long overdue.

Let's take some time now and review the Willamette Greenway—the development that has been completed, and that which is planned; and the regulations that have been put in place to direct that development to the objectives of the city along this precious Portland resource. Are we on the right track?

Respectfully,

Ernie Bonner

cc: Bob Belcher, Ron Buel, David Knowles, Charles Jordan, Jeff Lang