



CITY OF PORTLAND

URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

1120 SW FIFTH AVENUE, PORTLAND, OREGON 97204

PHONE 503-823-5396 FAX 503-823-5570



NICK FISH, COMMISSIONER

BRIAN KRIEG, CHAIR

May 18, 2009

Dear Mayor Adams,

It has come to the attention of The Urban Forestry Commission that relocating the Portland Beavers AAA baseball team to a new stadium constructed at Lents Park is now the City's preferred option.

While there are many considerations that go into a decision such as this, we want to bring to your attention our concerns about the significant impact such a construction effort will have on the green infrastructure of the Park, surrounding neighborhood and the City's overall tree canopy. The proposed stadium footprint, ancillary buildings, and parking lots will require removal of over approximately 177 mature trees including large native conifers and significant ornamentals. The approximate value for this resource is \$1.1 million dollars. These are public trees owned by everyone and managed for the common good. *We cannot think of a development in recent history that compares in magnitude of tree loss.*

The Lents neighborhood is highly industrialized and poorly treed at present (see enclosed aerial photograph). The Parks and Environmental Services Bureaus as well as Friends of Trees are working hard to encourage and support additional tree planting in the area. The neighborhood is making progress albeit slowly. Additional losses of mature tree canopy due to elimination of 177 trees will further reduce the green character of the neighborhood, diminishing its quality of life and undermining the improvements provided by the current tree planting programs. *And the loss of these public trees goes against the goals of the City's Urban Forest Management Plan.*

We strongly encourage you to consider the impact such a development will have on this important tree resource. *We support any attempts to locate such a development in a more suitable and less destructive site.*

If that is not possible, we feel that every attempt should be made to reduce the footprint of the development as much as possible, include space for large trees and conifers in the design - *and require full mitigation by the developer for removed trees to compensate for this significant loss.*

Brian Krieg

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "B. Krieg".

Chair, Urban Forestry Commission

c. Randy Leonard
Amanda Fritz
Dan Saltzman
Nick Fish

