

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Environmental Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Resolution about housing and sustainability  
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Gerhard Behrens

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We are new, new transplants to A2, helping our daughter and son-in-law with their new baby, May, now 6 months old. We've been here since Jan 1 and do all her caregiving as they begin their careers in clinical psychology and the law.

I bring a perspective from another college town/city, Corvallis, OR. It's the home of Oregon State University, the Greenbelt Land Trust, and a high price of housing that prevents from many folks from working AND living in Corvallis. The results of all that is prices escalate and the school district is steadily losing its pupil base. It's a bad cycle. The city is bordered on two sides by MacDonald State Forest which is open to recreation. The Greenbelt is preserving hundreds of acres of land to maintain wild areas around the city. However, it's nothing compared to the amazing areas of natural space in A2, and the key word is surrounded. These wild areas are NOT part of the city's fabric.

In the short 4 months since our arrival, my family and I have ventured into Miller, Brooks, Bird Hill, Barton, Keubler, Bandemeer, Eberwhite, Pioneer, Cedar Bend, and Furstenberg Nature Areas; not to mention County Farm Park, the Arb, and Gallup Park. You cannot lose these treasures. Higher density does not mean abandoning these oases in the middle of the city.

Increasing density in A2 is a no-brainer. We marvel at the size of the lots here: plenty of room for flagline lots, split lots, or ADUs.

Keeping biodiversity is also a no-brainer. We adore these beautiful and maintained (by volunteers and NAP staff) areas.

YOU CAN DO BOTH.

Gerhard