

ORAL COMMENT  
PLANNING COMMITTEE 6.4.24

June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Honorable County Council:

Joan Smith, 14106 64<sup>th</sup> Ave. W., Edmonds, unincorporated County

Since 2006, I have stood before the County Council to testify on behalf of the silent citizens of our County. Those voiceless cedars, hemlocks and firs have gifted us with a healthy place to live - clean air, water, wind protection, stable slopes and most important have inspired our lives with their beauty. In 2006, I addressed the reality of climate change and the important carbon sequestration mitigation that our trees provided. Our trees play an enormous role in cooling that rising heat! I am excited to see that the Snohomish County Planning Department's proposals in Comprehensive Plan for 2024 now use language that addresses climate change and puts forth an urban tree protection policy. That can make a huge difference!

Without such a policy, the loss of canopy throughout our County has been extensive. An example and one painful to me is what occurred on Picnic Point Road. This policy might have saved many of 100 year plus protective evergreen trees clear cut there. Rather we have 112 "affordable" LID homes on 12 acres with fewer non-native replacement trees. Picture each house at 1.2 million dollars. The neighborhood suffers increased traffic congestion and the Puget Sound tainted runoff.

We citizens need the healthy resilience that retained and added tree canopy provides. Education can promote the significance of our trees. We need to do our part to mitigate climate change. Some areas are less suited to nurturing trees. Not so here! We can do it and do it within our current UGA. Please add the Urban Tree Canopy Policy to the Comprehensive Plan for 2024. Find ways to enforce and expand its elements.

Thank you for considering this perspective!! And thank you to the trees that work silently on behalf of us all!