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Dear Planning Commissioners,

I'm Rebecca Jones of North Seattle writing on behalf of the Tree Preservation Code Team

I'm writing about Amendment 2. Definition of Landmark Tree.

Per Shoreline's Vision 2029, "People are first drawn here by the city's beautiful natural setting and abundant trees...". However, with intense development happening now in Shoreline, there is the increasing loss of many of Shoreline's tall, mature trees. While there are discussions around replacement trees, this will not make up for the thousands of significant trees that are being cut down and thousands more that will be lost due to development and capital projects. It's important to note that replacement trees only have a 30-50% survival rate resulting in Shoreline operating at a loss of tree benefits.

This destruction is not happening in one fell swoop, but at a constant pace. A pace that does not allow for replacement trees to provide the benefits that are lost when our tall mature conifer and native trees are destroyed.

I am saying all of this in support of Amendment 2, the Landmark Tree definition as proposed by the Code Team. We ask you to change the measurement of a Landmark tree to 24" dbh, already standard in Lake Forest Park and Maple Valley, and under consideration by other jurisdictions, in acknowledgement of the vital work of conifer and native trees.

As stated in the 2020 Green Shoreline publication “Protecting, enhancing, and maintaining the trees that comprise Shoreline’s urban forest – in neighborhoods, urban areas and parks – is critical to the health and welfare of the citizens of Shoreline and will have a positive impact on the entire region.”

We ask you to deliver on City promises to protect the splendid trees in Shoreline presented in numerous City publications. We ask you to recommend the measurement of a Landmark tree be 24” dbh.

Thank you,

Rebecca