To the Council Members of Cannon Beach,

I have been a homeowner at Breakers Point condominiums for 12+ years. I want to thank you for your continued efforts to the update the Sand Management Plan. This hasn’t been quick, or easy, for any of the stakeholders in this process.

I especially appreciate that you have included the use of experts and science to help guide your decisions. Facts and data will withstand scrutiny over time. I also understand that there is pressure from people who are basing their arguments on personal preferences, and personal beliefs. Of course, everyone is entitled to their opinion, and no one should deny them their perspective. But I feel that in the matter of responsible governance, decisions should be based on the best factual evidence available.

Here are some things that I hope you are considering.

1. The sand dunes at Cannon Beach, are not a “natural wonder”. Once humans moved in, they changed the area to suit their needs. This includes building streets, bridges, sewers, businesses, homes, and using a non-native and invasive dune grass for sand stabilization.

2. Just because something is located outside, does not make it “natural”. In fact, our dunes are even less natural, because humans have turned them into a monoculture of one type of plant material. Like a corn field, this approach does not support a variety of wild life.

3. Homes that have been permitted by the government along the ocean beach are now long established structures. The people who live in them are invested in the community of Cannon Beach. They are neighbors. They support the local businesses, restaurants and the local art community. They are the best kind of customer, because they are RETURN customers. The kind of customer base that businesses need. The kind of customer that the Chamber of Commerce works to entice to Cannon Beach and stay, shop and eat here. Even if they are part time in Cannon Beach – they come back all
year long.

4. There cannot be a “return to the way it used to be in Cannon Beach. That cow has left the barn. We were invited to live here, and we are staying. The homes that we bought, or built, have given us joy over the years. The overgrowth of the sand dunes is diminishing that joy through loss of access, damage to landscapes, and the frustrations of permitting and property maintenance.

5. Prior to the current undertaking of this update to the Sand Management Plan, we had a fairly balanced process that allowed homeowners to manage sand inundation, while ensuring government oversight and protection of the process. I hope we can return to working together to ensure that all stakeholders feel the system is working for them.

We have made our commitment to Cannon Beach. We love it here. Thank you for your efforts to keep Cannon Beach a great place to live, now and for the future.

_Terry Thorpe_

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