

LETTER TO METRO COUNCILORS

Dear Councilor _____:

During the 2008 campaign to promote the \$125 million Zoo Bond Measure, Metro Councillors and Oregon Zoo officials made promises for an off-site reserve where the eight Oregon Zoo elephants would roam freely. Almost 60% of Metro voters supported this measure on the basis of these promises.

It is now apparent that you do not intend to honor this promise, instead changing the name from "offsite-reserve" to "Remote Elephant Center" with the purpose of supporting an aggressive elephant breeding program.

As an elected public official, it is your job to carry out the will of the voters by honoring the promises Metro and Oregon Zoo officials made during the 2008 campaign.

I am writing to ask you to take the lead in directing Oregon Zoo officials to 1. Begin work on the off-site reserve with a completion date of December, 2015. 2. Abandon plans for the misguided elephant breeding program. 3. Use the remaining bond money to transfer Packy to a sanctuary by 2015.

As a citizen of Metro, I will be giving my vote to the candidate who pledges to use his / her political influence to bring about all of the above.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

SAMPLE LETTER TO THE OREGON ZOO DIRECTOR

Dear Ms. Dresler:

In 2008, your predecessor, Tony Vecchio, along with Oregon Zoo spokespeople and Metro officials, campaigned for the \$125 million Oregon Zoo Bond Measure. When voters learned the measure contained money for an off-site elephant “reserve”, “preserve” “sanctuary”, where Oregon Zoo elephants would freely roam, almost 60% voted in favor .

The original intention of the 2008 measure was to provide more humane conditions for the eight Oregon Zoo elephants. However, your “Master Plan”, violates both the spirit and intent of the measure by:

Promoting the new “Elephant Lands” exhibit as adequate to restore the health and well-being of the eight Oregon Zoo elephants thereby excusing the zoo from honoring its promises for an off-site reserve.

Calling for the establishment of an aggressive breeding program with the goal of bringing scores of baby elephants into lifetimes of captivity.

Changing what was promoted as an elephant “reserve” into a “Remote Elephant Center” to support the misguided elephant breeding program.

Refusing to allow the elderly, ailing Packy to spend his dwindling years in peace and freedom at an elephant sanctuary.

I am writing to request the Oregon Zoo to immediately begin work on the off-site elephant reserve, abandon plans for an elephant breeding program and transfer Packy to the comfort and safety of a sanctuary.

Thank you.

Sincerely,