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To: [Public Testimony](#)
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Subject: Support Ordinance 220961
Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 9:30:31 AM

I am a licensed architect, parent, and resident of Kansas City, Missouri. Jeremy Knoll, BNIM Architects, 5th District. I volunteer in leadership positions on the Boards of Climate Action KC and the US Green Building Council's Central Plains Chapter.

I am writing to provide written testimony in support of proposed ordinance 220961, which will incentivize preservation of Kansas City's tree canopy. The original proposal has been cut back severely, reducing required replacement and scenarios where replacement or preservation is required, so I encourage you to pass this ordinance without further weakening.

Trees are an important tool in our communities that quietly and cheaply provide daily local climate impacts that impact human well-being, resilience, utility costs, and more.

In the Regional Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, completed in 2019 for the 10-county region (including Jackson County), extreme heat exacerbated by the urban heat-island effect is the primary risk we face, which disproportionately negatively impacts the poor and socio-economically vulnerable populations in KCMO.

- For populations living within 1/2 mile of the highways running through the City, low atmosphere pollution from the roadways (exhaust, oils, vaporized tires and chemicals) impacts daily respiratory health of families across the metro.
- Families and businesses located near the bottoms of hills across the city are more prone to flooding - especially when the top of the watershed is impervious.
- Families making 80% or less of the AMI have among the highest "utility burden" rates nationally - meaning that a high portion of limited income goes towards paying utility bills.

Managing, maintaining, and infilling our tree canopy is a single strategy that impacts all of these issues and more. Trees absorb and filter low-atmosphere pollution, collect and hold stormwater, reduce air-conditioning demands during the summer, and grow real-estate value.

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