

To the Humboldt County Planning Commission:

In the summer of 1978, as a young woman, I watched one August day as several mammoth, park-sized redwoods were felled in Redway, just where Briceland Road goes around the last curve (right before Oakridge). I was shocked and horrified. I will never forget that. A group of residents got together and put together the Q-zone ordinance, which was then ratified by the Board of Supervisors in 1987. I thought redwood giants in my neighborhood were protected. Not so, apparently.

My family's property is only a few hundred yards from Robert Scarlett's. His removal of four giant redwoods so close to my land is affecting and will affect *my* trees due to humidity and wind changes. And will affect land values and views in this area for many decades.

Please refuse to allow Scarlett to remove the “Fifth tree.” His arguments are nonsense. His claim that a slice off the tree will be a “vector for disease” is silly—redwood is one of the most desired woods for decks because of its resistance to insects and disease. Likewise his spurious claim of damage to roots can be refuted. After nearly two decades of lawsuits and counter suits, the Richardson Grove controversy has still not been resolved. And Scarlett's driveway was hardly ever used, anyway.

Scarlett took down four huge redwoods already. He could have limbed them. He didn't—clearly he wanted to make money on the board feet.

The Q-zone legislation states that for a redwood larger than 24” DBH to be felled it must be “in imminent danger of falling.” The “Fifth tree” is not in any *imminent* danger of falling, and Scarlett doesn't even pretend it is.

I think Scarlett should be fined for defying the Q-zone legislation. At the very least, spare this last big tree.

Most importantly of all, *the planning commission's decision will set an example for decades. Your choice: Let people know they should follow the laws. OR make it be known that's it's open season on redwoods; let's destroy more and more of the remaining 5% of the original redwoods.*

*Sincerely, Wanda E. Naylor 5 Eel River Lane, Redway, CA*