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From: Primus Prostremus <skeely.2012@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 3:57 PM
To: Planning Department.UserGroup
Subject: Comments for 1/10 Public Hearing

Categories: PC

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To: Columbia County Commission
From: Mark Keely, Kalama WA
Date: January 8, 2024
Re: Comments for 1/10 Public Hearing on CU 23-11 & DR 21-03 MOD by NEXT "Renewable" Fuels

NXT = Not eXactly Trustworthy

I urge you to DENY NXT's conditional use application for the portion of the rail yard that goes through agricultural land, and I urge you to DENY NXT's proposed modification of the prior approval for the refinery.

1. One-hundred-car trains going through rural towns and cities. How do NXT propose to mitigate traffic wait times? Inevitable accidents? The original plans did not include frequent mile-long trains. This is a major modification.
2. The rail yard will spew air pollution onto local fertile agricultural lands and into our precious waterways. What damage does that do to local crops and valuable soils? Listen to the farmers who have told you for years NXT's rail yard and refinery are wrong for this area.
3. NXT hasn't been truthful about the feedstocks. Originally they said the feedstock was to be waste oils, but we now know it will be virgin seed oils. Growing crops to make fuel just doesn't make any sense. Permit applications are supposed to be clear and consistent, so the public knows what to expect.
4. NXT (formally NEXT) has altered their plans (and name) so many times over the past seven years my head is spinning. Do they even know what they are doing? Or are we simply being misled? This project reeks of bait-and-switch. Don't be fooled.