

1/9/2024  
Board of Commissioners, Columbia County  
Columbia County Land Development Services  
Attn: Planning  
230 Strand Street  
St. Helens, OR 97051

Re: NEXT Renewable Fuels Local Land Use Permits

Dear Columbia County Commissioners:

My name is Marshall McGrady and I am a resident of Columbia County. I am also a 24-year member of IBEW Local 48, the electrician's union that represents workers in NW Oregon and SW Washington. I fully support NEXT Renewable Fuel's efforts to build a renewable diesel production facility at the Port of Columbia County's Port Westward site. This is a win-win opportunity for the local economy and the environment.

Construction of this facility will hire more than 3,000 highly-skilled workers, the majority of whom already live in our region and other nearby parts of Oregon and southern Washington. Further, the NEXT facility will create more than 240 permanent direct jobs and hundreds of ripple benefit jobs in our county. These new jobs will inevitably lead to more money spent in our retail and grocery stores, on tourism and local recreation, and with local non-profits and organizations. The NEXT renewable fuels development will help Columbia County continue toward a healthy and sustainable local economy.

Oregon is a leader in the transition to a cleaner, more sustainable future and the NEXT proposal is a key element to meet aggressive state and federal goals to modernize the transportation sector.

Every single day, I drive over 1 hour to go to work (one-way). I support the NEXT Renewable Fuels project because this will allow members of Local 48 to work here in Columbia County and not have to commute to Portland for work. This is a win for the environment as this reduces the number of cars on the road, but it's mainly a win for our workers who live in Columbia County who will now have the opportunity to work in their own community. This will also provide the opportunity for new apprentice workers from our community to learn a skilled trade and have a long-term career that will provide them family wages and benefits for their entire working career.

I respectfully ask the Board of Commissioners to approve NEXT permits without delay so we can start building a cleaner future for our communities.

Sincerely,



Marshall McGrady, IBEW Local 48 and resident of Rainier, Oregon