

**Amy Herzog**

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**From:** Primus Prostremus <skeely.2012@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 3:59 PM  
**To:** Planning Department.UserGroup  
**Subject:** Comments for 1/10 Public Hearing

**Categories:** PC

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

Yet again Houston-based NXT is asking you to approve over 3 miles of rail tracks so they can increase the number of mile-long trains driven through rural towns already overburdened with train-caused traffic delays. Following promises not to utilize frequent long trains, their proposed project modification is just one more of Lou Soumas's and NXT's lies.

The rail yard will displace valuable farming lands and disrupt local water resources. It will increase water pollution, air pollution, noise pollution, and light pollution. Listen to the community! Listen to our farmers! As the climate crisis worsens, we will all rely more and more on their local crops and fertile soils.

The County's prior review and approval of the refinery did not consider the rail yard as now proposed. A previous rail yard proposal was reviewed under a separate application and different criteria, and ultimately rejected by LUBA in 2022, who wrote, "*The rail facility that the county approved is not a branchline under OAR 660-012-0065(3)(j).*" NXT's response? Jam the rail yard into the previously approved land use determination for the refinery, significantly increasing the scope and intensity of the proposal.

This is a major deceptive shell game. Don't fall for it! NXT has proven they are not to be trusted.

**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.**

Lastly, please read and consider Greg Pettit's recent op-ed in Longview's The Daily News *NXT Renewables uses 'bait-and-switch' to get its way at Port Westward* at [https://tdn.com/opinion/one-reader-s-view-nxt-renewables-uses-bait-and-switch-to-get-its-way-at/article\\_fa3f9204-ae4f-11ee-80bc-5b70cd477886.html](https://tdn.com/opinion/one-reader-s-view-nxt-renewables-uses-bait-and-switch-to-get-its-way-at/article_fa3f9204-ae4f-11ee-80bc-5b70cd477886.html). Mr. Pettit is a Columbia County resident, retired from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and has served on numerous local science and environmental committees.

Sally Keely  
Kalama WA  
Concerned resident who shares the air shed and lower Columbia River with Port Westward.