



The Oregon Conservancy Foundation

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Wednesday, January 10, 2024

To: Columbia County Commissioners
Re: NEXT Rail Infrastructure Proposal

Oregon Conservancy Foundation (OCF) supports environmentally responsible land use decisions, recognizing that the sustainable energy choices we make today are the path forward to tomorrow's clean energy future.

We support the local community voices that are telling the Columbia County Commission over and over that the proposed refinery is not in their community's best interest. It is clear from the history of what is proposed here with these rail lines, that industry's repeated attempts to get the proposed refinery through the permitting process meets the definition of "insanity" - doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.

Shifting the rail yard north and adding miles of rail tracks close to the proposed refinery is simply more of the same insult to this community: inflicting negative impacts to farmland and water resources that deserve to be protected, not disrupted against the will of those who live, work and raise families in the community that you as Commissioners are obligated to protect.

Community members have persistently shown up and opposed the NXT refinery and the various portions of it that have come up for review and decision making. Once again, NXT's current request is an end run around what the community continues to oppose.

OCF does not believe that this proposal is responsible, environmentally sustainable, or in the best interest of the local community that suffers its negative impacts. The Oregon Conservancy Foundation respectfully asks that the Columbia County Commissioners vote "**NO**" on this NXT Rail Infrastructure request.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathryn Chudy
Board of Directors

Lloyd K. Marbet
Executive Director
Oregon Conservancy Foundation