

Hayden Richardson

From: Anne Parrott <parrotta4@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 7, 2024 2:14 PM
To: Planning Department.UserGroup
Subject: NXT Rail Yard Proposal - Comments/Concerns

Some people who received this message don't often get email from parrotta4@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Columbia County Planners,

As you prepare for the upcoming Public Hearing on January 10, 2024, please take time to consider the comments and concerns of Columbia County residents who deeply care about their community and its future economic development.

We are seven years into dealing with this Port Westward economic development project proposal. It is a long enough time for everyone to realize the viability of this project is lessening over time. This is due to the ongoing vigilance and research from our community members.

Some of my top concerns are listed below:

- 1) The lands cited for this project once belonged to and were inhabited by the indigenous peoples of our county. With projects of this nature, the state of Oregon requires all projects that uncover "cultural resources" be IMMEDIATELY HALTED. Has anyone in your department or any of the Commissioners asked if any cultural resources have been discovered on the lands associated with this project?
- 2) The various rail proposals SHOULD NOT be considered separately, but rather together. You never see a front door sold separately from the house it is attached to!
- 3) This is not a "branch line" or a "rail spur" since the rail is connecting to a railyard which is defined as "a complex of branching railway lines and other infrastructure in which locomotives and rolling stock are stored and rearranged".
- 4) The impacts of this new railyard proposal have never been assessed within the industrial site and should not be considered "previously approved" (ex. the impact of an access road is FAR different than impacts of a railyard).
- 5) So far, this has already affected the existing agriculture with the effective eviction of neighboring farmers.

If you have not already read the latest guest column in The Columbia County Chronicle & Chief (January 3, 2024), please copy and paste into your browser: https://www.thechronicleonline.com/opinion/column-nxt-rail-yard-proposal-is-an-unacceptable-risk-and-wasted-taxpayer-resources/article_cc7276ca-aa8a-11ee-ba13-0fb083904494.html.

As mentioned above, the seven years of planning for this proposed project is not getting us any closer to it coming to fruition. Please take your time and serious consideration of your decisions and the future implications of them on OUR lives, OUR environment and the livability of this place we call HOME - Columbia County.

I appreciate your time considering my concerns.

Thank you,
Anne Parrott