

Columbia County  
Land Development Services  
Attn: Planning  
230 Strand Street  
St. Helens, OR 97051

January 10, 2024

To: Columbia County Commissioners

We urge you to **DENY** NXT's applications for a Rail Yard and Refinery because of the following:

1. These rail proposals SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY, RATHER TOGETHER.
2. The impacts of this new rail yard proposal have NEVER BEEN ASSESSED WITHIN THE INDUSTRIAL SITE and therefore should not be considered "previously approved" (the impact of an access road is FAR different than the dire impacts of a rail yard).
3. This is not a "branch line" or a "rail spur" or any other diminutive language because the rail is CONNECTED to the RAIL YARD! Therefore it is a RAIL YARD!
4. This HAS ALREADY affected existing agriculture with the effective eviction of neighboring farmers! It's an outright LIE to say otherwise!

Sincerely,



Jim and Kristine Patterson  
35102 Oliver Heights CT  
Saint Helens, OR 97051

Resources and References:

- All of the documents about NXT's rail yard applications are here:  
<https://www.columbiacountyor.gov/departments/BoardofCommissionersOffice/Hearings>.
- If you only look at two documents, the two most important are the Mackenzie report NXT commissioned for its proposed conditional use permit, and the separate report for the modification of site approval for the refinery area.
- Public Notice for January 10th Hearing:  
<https://evogov.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/meetings/143/attachments/16146.pdf>