



Testimony: Port of Columbia County Rezone

From ANNE KILEY <aek@everyactioncustom.com>

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To Jacyn Normine <Jacyn.Normine@columbiacountyor.gov>

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Dear Board Office Administrator Jacyn Normine,

I live in Oregon and I love the state, but I vigorously oppose the Port of Columbia County's plan to rezone 837 acres of good farmland at Port Westward, in the very center of the Columbia River Estuary.

The Port's plans conflict with Oregon's land use laws protecting farmland. Liquid fuel production and storage are too great a risk for the Columbia River Estuary, neighboring wetlands, and family farms at Port Westward.

The Port's rezone would allow petroleum refineries, coal export facilities, ammonium nitrate fertilizer plants, explosive weapons storage facilities, wood pellet plants, and liquid tank farms—these activities do not belong on agricultural lands next to the state's iconic Columbia River. Most of these facilities should be phased OUT of US industrial infrastructure, as they cause unacceptable levels of environmental pollution. To place any of them next to a source of fresh water is nothing less than reckless negligence.

Oregon's land use laws mandate protecting high-value farmland. The Port's proposal does not adequately address impacts to surrounding farms and livelihoods.

The rezone plan also affects critical salmon habitat. Billions of dollars have been invested in salmon restoration. Allowing liquid bulk fuel and other hazardous industrial uses immediately makes those billions wasted money.

Columbia County has an agricultural community that that state needs to feed its people. No one, except investors in fossil fuels and the "defense" industry needs this rezone plan.

The Port of Columbia County has long courted development by the fossil fuel industry—this rezone would open the door to even more ill-conceived and damaging industrial proposals.

I ask the Port and the Columbia County Board of Commissioners to think carefully about the existential risks of giving in to industrial interests instead of the interests and well-being of Oregon's citizens, and stop their attempt to rezone this land.

Sincerely,
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