
Testimony: Port of Columbia County Rezone

From Susan Crampton <methowgratitude@everyactioncustom.com>

Date Fri 9/25/2026 11:39 AM

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

[You don't often get email from methowgratitude@everyactioncustom.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Board Office Administrator Jacyn Normine,

As a nearly 80 year old person born and raised in country Oregon and living for several decades now in eastern Washington, I have lived along the Columbia River and its tributaries most of my life, have been aware of the value of the river, have witnessed changes, and opposed pollution and degradation.

The Port of Columbia County Rezone is in the pollution and degradation direction and should not go forward. I support the letter from Columbia Riverkeeper below.

I oppose the Port of Columbia County's effort to rezone 837 acres of high-value farmland at Port Westward, in the heart of the Columbia River Estuary. The Port's plans conflict with Oregon's land use laws that protect farmland. Major industrial uses like liquid fuel production and storage are an unacceptable risk for the Columbia River Estuary, neighboring wetlands, and family farms at Port Westward.

Specifically:

- 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 Columbia River.
- The Port's proposal to trade the county's prime farmlands for dirty fossil fuel development ignores mounting concerns about health, safety, and impacts to farmland and water quality.
- Oregon's land use process requires protecting high-value farmland. The Port's proposal does not adequately address impacts to surrounding farms and livelihoods.
- The Port's desire to industrialize wetlands threatens the Columbia River Estuary and sensitive water resources.
- The rezone affects critical salmon habitat. Billions of dollars have been invested in

salmon restoration. Allowing liquid bulk fuel and other hazardous industrial uses undermines progress towards salmon restoration.

- Columbia County has a thriving agricultural community that should be uplifted, not paved over.

- 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.

The Port and the Columbia County Board of Commissioners needs to reject this attempt to rezone this land.

Sincerely,

Susan Crampton

WA 98856

methowgratitude@gmail.com