
Testimony: Port of Columbia County Rezone

From Teresa Foster <purpledragonfly@everyactioncustom.com>

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

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Dear Board Office Administrator Jacyn Normine,

I oppose the Port of Columbia County's continued efforts to "raze" 837 acres of prime farmland at Port Westward, in the heart of the Columbia River Estuary. This is in opposition with Oregon's land use laws that protect farmland. Major industrial complexes for liquid fuel production and storage are an unacceptable polluting risk for this area including 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.

NO! Toxic and polluting!

- 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.

NO! Ecosystem health overrides this filthy, stinky industry.

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

There is a rich food Hub in Clackamas that would be undermined!

- The Port's desire to industrialize wetlands threatens the Columbia River Estuary and sensitive water resources.

Why would you do this? NO!

- 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.

Salmon deserve a healthy ecosystem to thrive!

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

The Clatskanie food hub is a gem!

- 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.

Once their claws are embedded, you can never undo the damage!

For these reasons I urge the Port and the Columbia County Board of Commissioners to reject this attempt to rezone this land.

Sincerely,
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