

LDS cc: BOE www

Written Input for 1-19-22 County Commissioner meeting re: NEXT propose d project

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

Dear Commissioners--



I would like to express my opposition to the proposed NEXT Renewable Fuels proposed project at Port Westward.

I have many concerns, but will state my top three.

First, I have grave concerns regarding Christopher Efirid's history with projects such as this. I am sure you are aware of the issues that resulted from his failed TransMessis Columbia Plateau facility in Odessa, Washington. That project was unsuccessful and is now an EPA superfund site. He and his partners approached the Port of Longview with a similar proposed project which was ultimately denied, has the county looked into the reasons for that denial?

Second, I have concerns about the land which the proposed facility would be built upon. The soil on the sight is highly liquefiable and that would surely spell disaster in the case of a significant earthquake which we, who live in the Pacific Northwest, know is likely coming sooner rather than later. The plan for wetlands mitigation is also troublesome and I feel that NEXT has not done their due diligence in trying to do that mitigation in a way that does not potentially harm the surrounding areas. They have stated that cost has been a factor in their choosing to not explore other options for wetlands mitigation. And, of course, the dikes are inadequate to handle the heavy loads that would result from this kind of a project.

My third concern is that NEXT has not yet publicly released the source of financial backing for this project. Who is Columbia County actually being asked to do business with? A larger part of this concern is that several questions, along with this one, have been asked and not answered clearly and/or completely.

The lack of transparency regarding this project is very worrisome and I would hope that the commissioners would seek answers to these very important questions before coming to any decisions regarding this proposal.

Thank You,

Shawn Lenderman
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