

**From:** Victoria Kress <bluespiritsynergy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 11:37 AM  
**To:** Casey Garrett <Casey.Garrett@columbiacountyor.gov>  
**Subject:** please hear my voice



Dear Commissioner Garrett,

Thank you for taking a moment to read my email.

I reside at Great Vow Zen Monastery which is housed in what used to be the Quincy-Mayger Elementary School within a half mile of the proposed NEXT Renewables project location.

- ✓ our programs host people from the Metropolitan Portland area as well as the entire country, introducing them to the quiet tranquil environment that Clatskanie offers.

Based on our research about NEXT Renewables, they are not who they say they are. Lou Soumas was the president until he was arrested for sexually assaulting children. He still works for NEXT and he and Christopher Efird were both part of the company that ran the biodiesel plant in Odessa, WA into the ground, leaving a huge chemical mess and suddenly laying off all their employees.

These are not people we, the hard-working people of Clatskanie, want as neighbors.

- ✓ In addition, they were denied a crude oil refinery project approval in Longview, WA. The residents there did not want them doing business or being neighbors.

This plant will compromise the environment

- ✓ There will be toxic off-put that can be seen and smelled and will be transported up and down our sacred Columbia River, our roads, and by rail.
- ✓ NEXT proposes to render animal and other fats, such as palm oil into bio-fuel
- ✓ The use of palm oil has far-reaching impacts and is one the reasons the Amazon is being so heavily logged and destroyed
- ✓ The air pollution from this process is known to cause real health issues such as headaches, nausea, burning throats, depression and anxiety.
- ✓ Just two days ago there was an air stagnation alert because of the other local plants.
- ✓ If this project is approved our air quality will be significantly compromised and our monastery residents, guests, and the entire Clatskanie community will suffer.

Thank you again for your time and considering the heavy impact this project will have on our community, environment and well-being.

Please say NO to the proposed NEXT Renewables energy project here in Clatskanie.

Sincerely,  
Victoria Kress  
January 17, 2022



**Victoria Kress**  
Certified Mindfulness Meditation Teacher  
Wellness Beauty Mindfulness