



I oppose the NEXT Renewable Fuels Project

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To: Jacyn Normine <Jacyn.Normine@columbiacountyor.gov>; ePermits - Planning <planning@columbiacountyor.gov>

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Walter Englert, and I live in Portland. I strongly urge you to protect the community and this sensitive ecological area from the dangers of the NEXT Renewable Fuels project and reject the application.

I urge you not to accept NEXT's mitigation plan as adequate, because it conflicts with existing uses in the area. NEXT's wetland mitigation plan will prevent the Beaver Drainage District from controlling flows of water to a significant number of farms that contribute to the character of the area and that provide valuable contributions to the local and state agricultural economy. In addition, individuals associated with NEXT have a history of leaving communities with environmental contamination. The Transmissis Columbia Plateau failure and cleanup site in Odessa, WA, raises questions about NEXT's trustworthiness.

Siting a biodiesel fuel plant in the proposed location is a poor decision, given that the soils allow for successful agricultural operations and that the area contains ecologically valuable wetlands. Also, the proposed use will alter the character of the surrounding area in a manner that substantially impairs the use of surrounding properties. Long, slow-moving trains filled with renewable diesel will prevent timely harvest and transport of crops, and industrial processes such as a gas flare that could create air, water, noise, and vibrational pollution in the area.

Most importantly to me, approval of this facility goes against what we know about slowing climate change. We need to move to 100% clean energy as quickly as we can to avoid the worst effects of climate change. As a father and grandfather, and as someone who values the diversity of life on our planet, we must do everything we can to insure that current and future inhabitants of Oregon have a livable climate in which to survive and flourish.

Thank you, and please reject the application from NEXT Renewable Fuels to protect our local farmers, wildlife, and human health.

Sincerely,

Walter Englert
Portland, OR 97202