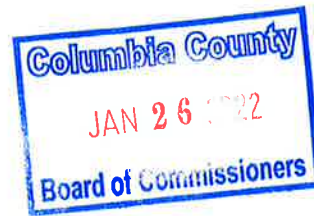


RE: NEXT Energy Port Westward proposal

Primus Postremus <skeely.2014@gmail.com>

Wed 1/26/2022 11:44 AM

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



My name is Cambria Keely. I am a senior at Western Washington University double majoring in Environmental Science and Policy. I grew-up in Kalama Washington along the Columbia River. The Columbia River estuary and the Port Westward bend are critical areas for wetlands and wildlife including salmon survival and recovery. Air and water pollution, and soil contamination from Next Energy's industrial plant carry the potential to impact a large and sensitive agricultural and recreational area. Flaring, leaks, spills, fires, noise, and vibrations will harm the area's ecological functions and wildlife habitat.

On the rail spur and added unit trains I want to specifically point out that:

- CCZO 1503(5)(C): The characteristics of the site (successful agricultural operations and sensitive wetland areas) are not suitable for a rail line used to transport fuels on an industrial scale.
- CCZO 1503(5)(E): The proposed use will alter the character of the surrounding area in a manner that substantially impairs use of surrounding properties (i.e. long, slow-moving trains preventing timely harvest and transport of crops).

I'm 20 years old. Almost every day I'm urged by older folks to protect the next generation. Our planet is already facing the dramatic effects of climate change which will only worsen in coming years. This is a critical moment in which you hold the power to decrease pollution and contribute to a cleaner future, and it is certainly not the time to support dirty energy developments, especially when we have so many better options at our fingertips that will also support the economy. Please make the smart and moral choice to completely reject Next Energy's proposed refinery and rail spur.

Cambria Keely
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