LETTER REGARDING "NEXT"

The natural world is a great and beautiful place and the web of life that has evolved to survive here is a great gift—it allows us, as a part of that web, to live. The impact of humanity however has become severely out of balance.

Under the pressure of an ever-increasing human population the rest of the web is being degraded, and depleted, and in many cases it is disappearing.

In an attempt to feed the needs of the world's people the EXPLOITERS are dipping so deeply into the treasury of our resources that the very thing they are taking is consumed and then gone. It is NOT SUSTAINABLE.

Consider the salmon. As recently as the early 1900's there were so many salmon in the Columbia River the fishermen used horses to haul in the nets full of fish—the Seining Grounds—within earshot of this proposed mega refinery.

The proposed refinery imports ingredients by ship and produces diesel that is exported by ship. That, at least, was the original proposal. After pulling the old "bait and switch" however "NEXT" is now asking to create a rail yard capable of storing 5 miles of trains out at Port Westward. Their reason is "in case the river shuts down." That reason translates, in Corporate Speak, to "whichever way is cheapest."

Make no mistake—I am opposed to this refinery whether "all" or "most" or even "a tiny bit" of the material comes and goes by ship; but here is my specific question: Is there proof that all this shipping—the increased river traffic congestion, the pollution, and the continuous drone of the engines—will have no harmful impact on the river?

How do you mitigate the never-ending throbbing drone of the engines—buy a piece of land somewhere else and keep it really quiet?

I doubt that this adventure will go well for the salmon.

We all want to survive, but it is essential for the welfare of the all life that we try to do it in a sustainable way. The Elders spoke of "Respect" and "Balance."

Now is the time for a decision that chooses "SUSTAINABLE" over "EXPLOITATION."

Consider the salmon.

Received from
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