

## Proposed Port Westward Next Renewables comments.

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



Good afternoon I was given your email information so that I could make comments regarding the proposal that currently sits before the County Commission regarding the expansion of Port Westward and the allowance of Next to build a refinery in Clatskanie.

I'm sure there are many comments covering a variety of social and environmental issues relating to the building of this refinery so I won't go into those, however I would like to address my concerns about the change in logistics that would impact the region drastically.

I live less than 4 miles from the proposed site and am very familiar with the roads that lead to the port. There are two routes that allow people access to the port from Highway 30. The first being Alston Mayger Rd. This is the closest entry point for vehicular traffic coming from the East (Portland, Longview etc) which would be the road most likely traveled to reach and exit the Port. Alston Mayger Road is a winding, narrow and sparsely maintained road that traverses many homes and farms. Many of these homes have children and pets. Currently two midsize trucks have a challenge when passing each other when traveling opposite directions. The proposed project would create an enormous amount of semi truck traffic as well as heavy commercial trucks delivering supplies for building and excavation. The current road system with that kind of traffic would present a real and serious threat to the residents of the area as well as their children and animals. Elk and deer crossings are very frequent as well.

In addition to the threat of injury or death, the roads would quickly break down exacerbating the issue. Environmental pollution caused by the increased traffic would quickly impact the area as well. Many homes have roadside vegetable gardens which would no longer be safe to use.

After construction there would be daily traffic of up to 200 to 250 or more vehicles traveling the route making this a long term problem for the community.

The alternate route would lead directly through downtown Clatskanie then on to Beaverfalls Road which is in a similar condition with similar impacts.

Port Westward is poorly situated to handle a facility of this size and the impacts far outweigh the benefits. Port Westward has a bright future that residents can get behind but a mega refinery is not it.

Approving this permit would only cost the residents and their allies hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees as we continue to fight through litigation and completely undermine our faith in our elected officials.

I hope that our officials are the people we voted for and side with the local residents rather than an out of state energy producer.

Thank you for your time

Will Walker  
Clatskanie Oregon