

From: Stuart Gray <graystuart@usa.net>
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 9:33 AM
To: Henry Heimuller <Henry.Heimuller@columbiacountyor.gov>
Subject: This may smell



Dear Commissioner Heimuller,

I am hoping you have done due diligence concerning NEXT Renewables' application for a rendering and fuel recycling plant at Port Westward. I say this because of the past record of the applicants.

Lou Soumas and Christopher Efirm were both principals in the company that ran the biodiesel plant in Odessa WA into the ground. Leaving a chemical mess which cost taxpayers when the EPA had to come in to clean up after they left. Please vet this project most thoroughly. Longview, Washington did just this and concluded the it was not in their citizen's best interest despite the lure of tax revenues and promises of employment.

Building a rendering and diesel recycling plant will do irreparable damage to the fragile environment along the lower Columbia River. Valuable farm land will be lost for generations. Please acknowledge the worlds' dependence on fossil fuels is being phased out, slowly, to be sure, but constructing a environment destroying facility which may only be viable for 10-20 years is not the best way to treat our world when it's in a crisis.

There are many unanswered questions posed to NEXT. Make sure you know all the facts. Consider what you are handing over to your children's children; consider the loss of farm land; consider loss of wildlife habitat; consider loss of peace and quiet; consider high potential for air, land and water pollution; consider how Mr Soumas and Mr Efirm treated their employees and the people in the State of Washington when they abandoned their Odessa renewable fuel facility.

If you truly vet and consider your actions and immense ramifications of how you vote on this application, I thank you.

Stuart Gray
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