

Port Westward Industrial Development

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

Dear Commissioners,



Thank you for this opportunity to join in the public inquiry around the proposed industrial site at Port Westward. For eight and a half years I have been a resident at Great Vow Zen Monastery in Clatskanie, just a few hundred yards from the proposed site. During this time I have come to love and treasure our precious community – the people and creatures, the trees, mountains, and rivers, and all the diverse living relationships we are a part of. It is out of this simple love that I offer my encouragement to withdraw support from the industrial development proposed by NEXT Renewable Fuels, Inc.

A great deal of testimony was offered at Wednesday's hearing detailing the environmental risks of the NEXT project. These risks are undeniable, from an ecological point of view, and the warnings of citizens and experts should be heeded. However, there is also a larger picture. This industrialized way of life is very new in the vast scope human evolution – only about 200 years relative to hundreds of thousands of years of hominid development. Perhaps there have been past cycles of high-tech civilization on the planet Earth. If so, they apparently did not last. What became of them? What made their habitation of this planet no longer viable? These are questions worth contemplating.

The Chinook and other native peoples of this region inherit lifeways that extend back to the last ice age (more than 10,000 years). They have found balance and harmony by integrating themselves into the natural web of relations. Holders of these traditions are rare voices of wisdom and should be honored. What they convey is a true example of *sustainability*. In our time of profound ecological crisis, we can translate this into *survivability*. What we need is a way of life that will not exceed the earth's capacity to support us. This is something we do not currently have, and big changes are needed to begin moving us in the right direction. Building a massive biofuel refinery, under questionable management, is myopic and not in accord with the changes we need – as a species. Please recognize how insane it is to destroy the very fabric that keeps us alive in order to win some short-term and unevenly distributed financial benefits. People like you recognizing this and changing course is the only hope humanity now has. This is your opportunity to act for the greater good.

With sincere thanks for your consideration,

Patrick Kenny Dunn