

Fwd: Port Westward

Pat Richards <plrich80@gmail.com>

Mon 1/24/2022 9:22 PM

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



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Pat Richards** <plrich80@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Jan 24, 2022 at 9:19 PM

Subject: Port Westward

To: <jaycn.normine@columbiacountyor.gov>, <planning@columbiacountyor.gov>

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Pat Richards and I am a frequent visitor to Great Vow Zen Monastery, across the street from Port Westward. I emphatically urge you to protect the community and this sensitive ecological area from the dangers of the NEXT energy project. I urge you to reject their application. NEXT's mitigation plan conflicts with the uses of the area. There are many farms that provide valuable contributions to the local and state agricultural communities. NEXT's wetland mitigation plan will prevent the Beaver Drainage District from controlling flows of water to a significant number of these farms.

The proposed use is not water-related or water-dependent. This means that locating the use in the riparian corridor is not permitted. The negative impact would be significant.

It is also concerning that individuals with NEXT have a history of leaving communities much worse off environmentally with contamination. The Transmissis Columbia Plateau failure and cleanup site in Odessa, WA raises questions about NEXT's trustworthiness.

Lastly, as a frequent guest of Great Vow Monastery, I am concerned about the impact that a biodiesel fuel plant would have on the peaceful environment of the Monastery. The air, noise, and light pollution would negatively impact the people and animals that are in this area. The bucolic scenery would be ruined and there would be a detrimental effect on the Monastery.

Please reject the application from NEXT Energy to protect our environment, local farmers, wildlife, human health, and the Monastery's sacred stillness and natural beauty.

Sincerely,
Pat Richards