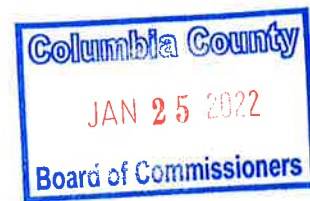


## Next proposal at Port Westward

Kodo Conover <kodo.conover@gmail.com>

Tue 1/25/2022 3:00 PM

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



**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you are expecting this email and/or know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Nancy Conover and I live in Portland and am frequently in residence at Great Vow Zen Monastery. Before retiring I was the Branch Manager of the State Vocational Rehabilitation Office in Columbia and Clatsop Counties along with North Portland so I have some familiarity with some of the economic and employment issues in the area.

I have followed the development of Port Westward from rezoning until now and was particularly alarmed after sitting in on the recent County Commissioner's meeting on Jan. 19, 2022.

Red flags came up around several issues:

1. The instability of the biodiesel industry. This was reinforced with the negligent way that NEXT operated as Tranmessis in Odessa, WA. There are many biodiesel plants for sale right now located close to feed stock.
2. This company is not transparent in their operations and it is very difficult to find out who they are and who is running this.
3. When **\$1.5 Billion** is being put forth to bring a questionable fuel to market then it warrants looking at their real objectives. Is this just a big write off for businesses? There is a lot of money floating around in the business world. What is really going on here? I cannot believe that they care one iota for Columbia County. They only want a foothold on the Columbia River.
4. The changing of how they plan to operate. Getting product from all over the world so it needs to be brought in by ship to getting food stock from BP— British Petroleum - hence needing more rail availability.

All these and more say this is not a sound economic plan for Columbia County or any where. The biodiesel fuel was at a cross roads years ago and needed federal subsidies to continue. This project is not really helping anyone except those few at the top who have devised this scheme.

As for the environment impact of this project there are definitely not enough safe guards in place and not enough guarantees that if there is a problem, a leakage, a spill, a closing of the plant that they will not just up and leave, leaving the mess to the citizens of Columbia County. Or keeping their lease with the Port and changing their mission.

**Please reject the application from NEXT Energy to protect our local farmers, wildlife, human health, and our rural stillness and natural beauty which is without beyond a dollar value.**

Sincerely,

Nancy Kodo Conover

Nancy Kodo Conover

Priest/Teacher

Heart of Wisdom Zen Temple

[www.zendust.org](http://www.zendust.org)

503-502-6474