



January 25, 2022

Dear Commissioners,

You are the decision makers for NEXT energy's application to build a renewable diesel refinery at Port Westward, a project with far-reaching impacts. I appreciate the importance of the decision for which you are responsible.

As a retired attorney who supported and worked with businesses and business owners for decades, I appreciate concerns about jobs and employment.

As a retired attorney who actually read the Hazardous Materials Rail Transportation Safety Improvement Act of 2015 passed after train derailment and resulting spills, I know firsthand that the descriptions of what things will look like are often VERY different than the thing itself. When that act was passed, it was described as "protecting" communities and "reducing" risks. Reading the language, the core of its activity seemed really to be more like accepting that spills will happen and finding more resources for cleanup, while also leaving decisions about how much would be needed for clean up to be made largely on input and information to be provided by those with the greatest interest in minimizing risk and preserving their pocketbooks. This is very different than "protecting" communities and "reducing" risks by any real measure.

Among my concerns:

- That jobs dreamed of and hoped for by local residents will be filled by outsiders to this community in volumes that change the culture and diminish quality of relationships with each other and the community, perhaps even destroying the 'heart' of Clatskanie,
- That Oregon is already 'receiving', or has received, polluting diesel vehicles "dumped" (sold) into Oregon when Washington or California owners replace them with cleaner operating vehicles because more environmentally supportive regulation in those states,
- That air quality near to the Columbia River – including where our house is found – is already poorer (more polluted) than other parts of Portland Metro and Clatskanie and circumstances surrounding this company hold promise of likely "worse to come" to this already concerning situation. Also consider the aggravation of noise, smell, and light pollution.

Please, please bring realism to this. Look at the language, words, and frankly abysmal track record of NEXT (its actions/failures re: failed biodiesel plant in Odessa). Is the future they foreshadow worth the effects for Columbia County and Clatskanie? Please decide that it is not. Please do not foreclose opportunities for other, more beneficial developments in the area NEXT is looking to take over for this project by filling it with the NEXT project.

I am also a member of the Zen Community of Oregon and, yes, I prefer the current experience of being at Great Vow Zen Monastery to the probable future if you approve the NEXT project, and I wish for this to now get in the way of your hearing what precedes this paragraph.

Thank you for your consideration and thoughtfulness. Please reject the application from NEXT Energy to protect our local farmers, communities, health, natural environment and beauty.

Respectfully,

*Linda E Frischmeyer*

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