

NEXT Project at Port Westward

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

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Melinda Fleming and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am concerned for my neighbors in Columbia County. Consigning yet another 837 acres of high-value farmland to heavy industrial zoning and erecting a renewable diesel refinery, will adversely affect the quality of life of residents and farmers near Port Westward in numerous ways.

To mention just a few:

- NEXT's wetland mitigation plan will prevent the Beaver Drainage District from controlling flows of water to a significant number of farms;
- NEXT's trustworthiness is does not look too solid after the Transmessis Columbia Plateau failure, as well as the Odessa, WA failure;
- Long, slow-moving trains will surely prevent timely harvest and transport of crops; and
- Gas flares would create air, water, noise, and vibrational pollution.

In fact, absolutely nothing about this proposal conserves quality of life for residents and farmers in the area, and the use of fracked gas to create a product that is only marginally better than regular diesel is a real head-scratcher.

Finally:

- What guarantees exist that jobs will go to local community members?
- What plans are in place if there are large spills or leaking pipelines?
- Should the project fail, what assurances are there that the terminal will not suddenly be turned into a crude oil terminal?
- "Trying" to use recycled organic materials, and limiting vegetable oils "as much as possible" is simply not good enough.

Kindly reject the NEXT Renewable Fuels application, and protect the health of the people of Port Westward.

Sincerely,
Melinda Fleming