



The Oregon Conservancy Foundation

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To: Columbia County Commissioners
Re: NEXT Proposal

The Oregon Conservancy Foundation supports the many local voices that have raised their concerns over the proposed NEXT renewable diesel refinery. These voices are heard in a compelling video: Locals Talk About NEXT at Port Westward: <https://youtu.be/jguuAar5ToM>

Neighboring farms and salmon habitat, fragile wetlands, and the location of Port Westward at a critical bend in the Columbia River, where Tribes, local farmers and residents, and the entire Columbia River system have longstanding and enduring interests, make the proposed industrial project completely out of step with the needs and the heart and spirit of this location.

The Mission statement for the Board of Commissioners states: *"We engage by listening and being proactive to community needs...to promote a healthy and prosperous Columbia County."*

It is clear, listening to these compelling local voices, that the NEXT proposal would threaten and inevitably lead to degradation of the health, safety and natural resources of Columbia County and the residents who live, work and raise their families there, whose lives depend on elected representatives willing to protect the Columbia River location that they love.

The only way to show that you are "listening, being proactive to community needs, and promoting a healthy and prosperous Columbia County", is to say "NO" to the NEXT proposal and we urge you to do so on their behalf.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Respectfully,

Cathryn Chudy
Board of Directors

Lloyd K. Marbet
Executive Director
Oregon Conservancy Foundation