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Sent: Saturday, November 09, 2013 1:48 PM
To: EFSEC (UTC)
Subject: Tesero/Savage Port of Vancouver project

Categories: Comment, Blue Category

Committee:

My family has lived on the Columbia River for 3 generations. My great grandmother was a Native American. This river has provided for the people of the State of Washington and Oregon for hundreds of years. Today I am a resident of Camas WA and live on the Columbia River. The railroad that you propose to use to transport 386 thousand barrels of oil per day on is 50 feet from my front door.

My husband and I built our home knowing the railroad is there and accept they run trains, however in addition to the environmental impact this project has for the port and those downriver from the port, it will have significant impact to everyone along the river. My neighborhood in particular. The railroad is planning on adding another 2 mile long track in front of our houses on which to store for and unspecified period of time railcars full of oil. The neighborhood was not contacted by the railroad about this project, in fact we inadvertently learned of the project when they attempted to vacate the community right of way to only one of two roads that access the entire community. (the railroad told us they would do whatever they want, the neighborhood has no say in the matter) Any trains sitting on this spur will block the only emergency access we have. We currently have one crossing which is often blocked. In the 7 years I've lived here the crossing has been blocked countless times but on at least 5 occasions, it was blocked by a train for more than 1.5 hours. Adding this spur, planned to begin within 10 feet of our only crossing, will block access to and from our homes for the time it takes to get a 2 mile long train to speed. This will be the difference between life and death for someone.

I am very opposed to the Port project and would like to point out the impacts just in my neighborhood.

1) Significant safety impact. Where ever a spur and a train come together the probability for derailment and crashes increase dramatically. With oil and gas on these trains, our homes and our live are at significant risk because of this project.

2) Water, while many have spoken of the disaster that occurs with a spill in the river, any contamination along this train contaminates the water table between the rail and the river. We all have wells on our property for our drinking water. Our homes, the largest investment most American families make in their lifetimes become worthless without water. And those of us who have lived her for generations lose a way life that will not be recovered.

3) Security. Along the river there are many places on railroad property that the homeless choose to camp and other criminal activity occurs. The train sitting on a spur that is not visible from and major highway or in an industrial area is an easy target for both petty criminals and terrorists wanting to make a statement. We frequently deal with this element. There are many places along the Columbia where the trains are easily accessed. We live in an isolated neighborhood with no security.

4) Access, which is also a safety concern. Last year, I lost my husband to a heart attack . While I waited for the ambulance to arrive, I gave him CPR, The ambulance took over 25 minutes to arrive---if there had been a train blocking the crossing at that moment I would have waited another 30 minutes. They revived him and he died in the ambulance on the way to the hospital. Please don't let one of my neighbors wait an hour while they watch their loved one die so that the port of Vancouver can ship oil overseas. The spur and increased train traffic will quadruple the length and number of times our access is blocked.

5) The future prosperity of Clark County, and the State of WA is at risk because of this project. Oil is a temporary commodity that will one day be replaced with better alternatives. Water, however, is a precious commodity that now and especially into the future will be far more valuable to our community and our State.

I urge you to look to the true future of what the city of Vancouver and the State of Washington can be. We can start by being visionary, making decisions for the future, not for next year. It's a brave thing to do, please have the courage to fight for the people of the State of Washington to continue to live in the best place in the world. Say no to Tesero.

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Donna