
From: Linda McLain <lindamclain@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 9:28 PM
To: EFSEC (UTC)
Subject: Proposed Vancouver Oil Terminal

Categories: Green

Mr. Posner and Council:

I believe that most reasonable people believe that our continued use of fossil fuels will have repercussions that none of us want to see. That is not what I am going to tell you about the proposed oil terminal in Vancouver, Washington. I want to speak as someone who has had a business in downtown Vancouver for 25 years, someone who has, with her husband, raised her children here, now adults with children of their own who also live here and are involved in the community. I love this community. I have spent the last three years involved in our Downtown Association, on their board as treasurer. I need to make it clear that I am speaking with my own voice as our board as not yet taken a stand on this oil terminal.

I joined the Downtown Association because I loved their mission statement – their goal is to make Vancouver a place where people want to live, work and visit. We have accomplished much as a community, even through the recession. Esther Short Park and the City of Vancouver have just recently made news because of their great contribution to the quality of our life. We look forward to the expansion of the living areas and the Waterfront Development and hope to see Vancouver grow and prosper and become a wonderful place to be.

How can any of this last if our city becomes known as the largest oil exporter in the Pacific Northwest? Unlike other towns that have oil terminals or refineries, our Port is so close to our downtown. The EFSEC hearing in Vancouver at the end of October was amazing. The neighborhoods were well represented and their associations had almost all voted unanimously against this proposal by our Port. I remember especially one mother from the Fruit Valley neighborhood asking all of you on the council to come to her house for dinner and walk the neighborhood with her in the evening. She introduced her eight year old son and was concerned about his future health. She could list the names and amounts of every chemical she believed would infiltrate their neighborhood once the terminals were active. This neighborhood has seen it's share of poverty, but has recently been going through a redevelopment, they have a new grade school and park, and people are always out walking and enjoying where they live.

There are always winners and losers with projects like this, and unfortunately the less affluent lose as their property values go down while others more fortunate can afford to live farther away and experience some short term gains. These gains come at a huge price to the rest of us, and actually, in this case of transporting fossil fuel, at a huge price to the whole world. I implore you, for my family and for everyone in Vancouver, do not allow this oil terminal to be built. How unfair that something like this could happen to our town without the people at least being able to vote on this issue. We voted at one time for these Port Commissioners, and back then, when I served as the chair of Sierra Club's Political Committee, they asked us for our endorsement. They assured us that they would never let the Port do something that would harm the environment. We endorsed two of these Commissioners and I feel very sad about that.

Thank you for listening and I so hope you will make the right decision.

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