

## The Oregon Conservancy Foundation

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### Before the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC)

#### Public Comment of the Oregon Conservancy Foundation

The most significant oversight in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Tesoro Savage petroleum terminal at the Port of Vancouver would be the failure to consider:

- Increased consumption of fossil fuel,
- Increased emissions of carbon dioxide, and
- Catastrophic Climate Change!

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ENERGY FACILITY SITE  
EVALUATION COUNCIL

The sole purpose for transporting oil by rail from North Dakota to the Port of Vancouver is to relentlessly press forward with the consumption of fossil fuel, which will have multiple adverse impacts affecting not only Vancouver but the Pacific Northwest and all of planet Earth.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is now in the process of issuing their fifth assessment report on climate change. The first published report is entitled "Climate Change 2013, The Physical Science Basis." The IPCC's "Headline Statements from the Summary for Policymakers" contains a list of its significant findings of which the following are some major excerpts:

- *The atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO<sup>2</sup>), methane, and nitrous oxide have increased to levels unprecedented in at least the last 800,000 years. CO<sup>2</sup> concentrations have increased by 40% since pre-industrial times, primarily from fossil fuel emissions and secondarily from net land use change emissions. The ocean has absorbed about 30% of the emitted anthropogenic carbon dioxide, causing ocean acidification.*
- *Human influence has been detected in warming of the atmosphere and the ocean, in changes in the global water cycle, in reductions in snow and ice, in global mean sea level rise, and in changes in some climate extremes. This evidence for human influence has grown since AR4. It is extremely likely that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century.*
- *Continued emissions of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and changes in all components of the climate system. Limiting climate change will require substantial and sustained reductions of greenhouse gas emissions.*

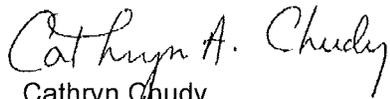
Any EIS must include all of the environmental, health and economic impacts of transporting 360,000 barrels of fracked crude oil by rail each day from North Dakota along the Columbia River. There must be risk assessments for threatened and endangered species, a programmatic EIS that considers cumulative regional rail impacts for coal as well as oil terminals, and an analysis of the vessel traffic impacts of all terminal proposals on the Columbia River. It is also imperative to consider the collective global impacts of multiple fossil fuel terminal projects on ocean acidification, acid rain, mercury emissions, and climate change.

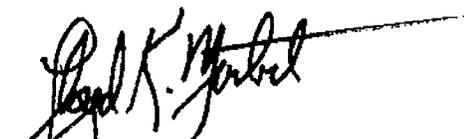
We do not exist in a vacuum. What we do here links inexorably with what happens beyond the confines of our location. Your mandate requires you to "balance" demand for new energy facilities with the broad interests of the public, including protection of environmental quality and safety. You have it within your authority and you owe it to concerned citizens to ensure that your study will encompass the wider impacts that will be felt not only locally and regionally but outwardly in the world for centuries to come.

Climate change is upon us. We are its driving force, and we no longer can ignore the role we play in the survival of our planet. The price of business as usual is too great. It can no longer be supported by growth for the sake of growth, planned obsolescence, and the mindless consumption of resources and goods. The burden for change falls on us all and demands a greater consciousness in the way we live and protect life on Earth.

We thank you for taking these comments under consideration.

Respectfully,

  
Cathryn Chudy  
Board of Directors

  
Lloyd K. Marbet  
Executive Director  
Oregon Conservancy Foundation