

Good evening.

I'm a long-time firefighter, currently a battalion chief here in Vancouver. To be clear I am here tonight to share my personal perspective and not on behalf of my employer. But I was shocked when I heard of the Port of Vancouver's decision to move forward with the Tesoro Savage proposal so soon after the fiery train disaster in Quebec.

What worries me most, however, is the threat to our shared human habitat. Climate change is a slow motion runaway train. All the CO2 we've been putting into our atmosphere has exceeded the natural system's ability to buffer it. Storms have become more powerful, drought more persistent. Wildfires rage across the west and around the globe. Sea levels are rising. The acidification of our oceans already threatens fisheries on the Hood Canal and at Willapa Bay. The overwhelming consensus of our scientists is that we are rapidly running out of time to do something to change the trajectory. I don't think we really understand the forces we have set in motion.

But even if we don't know where this runaway train will end up there are some things we can do.

Now is the time for us to transition away from oil. We need to safeguard our air and water and to stabilize the climate system that supports our food production. For too long we have used the atmosphere and natural systems as a trash heap onto which we dump fossil fuel byproducts. We can do this no longer..

We want our community leaders to focus on the development of energy solutions. We cannot afford projects that seek only to burn more and more oil.

We need a system that puts a cap and a price on carbon emissions. We should withdraw public subsidy for oil companies. We simply cannot accept a project like the Tesoro Savage oil train facility right here in Vancouver. No way. Enough is enough. I urge you to reject the proposal.

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