



Photo Credit (National Geographic July 2013) Explosion due to oil train derailment in Lac Megantic Quebec, destroys the downtown and kills 47 people.

Dina Roberts

Citizen, Vancouver, Washington

Testimony – Opposing Tesoro and Port of Vancouver Oil Terminal

I am lucky to call Vancouver, Washington my home. I made my biggest personal economic decision to buy a home in an historic neighbor near downtown, and less than a mile from the rail lines and proposed terminal. When I bought my home, I invested in a community. This community, Vancouver, Washington has just been listed in the top 100 Best Places to Live in America ([www.livability.com](http://www.livability.com)).

We are currently number 96, moving up I think, unless you okay this bad decision by the Port. I have seen a slow and steady renewal in the downtown even during the recession and especially now with more people wanting to live in the downtown area of our city.

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The photo above is of a beautiful city, although smaller city, than ours, which was partially destroyed when oil tanks derailed and exploded, taking much of the historic downtown region with it. I hate to even image the possibility of our town going up in black, toxic smoke, but that is actually what could happen if this project is approved.

Numerous groups have raised concern about the increasing volume of oil that is being moved by rail, in tanks that aren't designed well for such highly explosive and toxic substances. Even a study done by the US Department of Transportation found that the risk of train spill is six times higher than even the risk of pipeline spills, and we are all becoming increasingly aware of those devastating spills, think Yellowstone River in Montana and the recent spill in Central Arkansas.

Often times these pipelines can be put in places that are away from high human populations, but this is not the case with the rail lines in our country, our state and our region. These rail lines that would carry thousands of gallons of hazardous oil a day will pass right next to the Columbia River and through our Federally designated Columbia River Scenic Corridor. More importantly these tanks will bring a highly explosive material through this, our town, one of the oldest continuous settlements in the Northwest.

I find the risk unacceptable and this proposal highly flawed. Why wasn't a risk assessment analysis done before the proposal was okayed by the Port? Where was citizen input from the City of Vancouver and the other cities and towns along the rail route?

I ask you to reject this proposal on behalf of the health of our environment and our community. The risks far outweigh the benefits.

Thank you for your time, and please, do the right thing.

Dr. Dina Roberts

Questions I have -

How does the Port approve a lease of this size without lengthy dialogue with the community most impacted? (City of Vancouver)

How will this project impact endangered Salmon and Columbia White-tailed Deer?

Not to mention our climate & the liability of our city, state, and planet?