

Good evening! My name is Sarah Collmer and I am a citizen of Vancouver, a mother, and a member of Clark County Clean Air.

We must necessarily admit that climate change alone is more than substantial reason to stop the proposed Tesoro-Savage Oil Terminal, but there are myriad reasons to terminate this project. Consider, for example, the recent oil leak from a Tesoro pipeline in North Dakota, which has devastated at least 20 acres with over 20,600 barrels of oil. After suspiciously delayed disclosure and measurement efforts in the spill, Tesoro claims that it will, eventually, remediate the land to the same condition as before. This remains to be seen. Of particular relevance to our region, however, is what Eric Haugstad, director of contingency planning and response for Tesoro, has said of the spill in North Dakota: “As unfortunate as it is, having it happen here in this type of soil is actually very beneficial with a clay layer and not hitting water...If you hit water, whether it be groundwater or a river, it would have been much worse.”<sup>1</sup> Given the disastrous effects on land, what would happen if such a spill occurred on or near the Columbia River as oil traveled by rail or barge? Perhaps some may argue, forgetting the recent, tragic oil train derailment in Quebec, that Tesoro’s trains wouldn’t threaten the Columbia River and the lives it sustains and supports. However, Tesoro’s own people, its abysmal record tell us differently.<sup>2,3</sup> What would be the results of a train derailment and/or spill in the Columbia River? How difficult, if not impossible, would mitigation be? How long would such mitigation take, and what further problems may it incur? If Tesoro’s own official admits that such a spill on or near water would be “much worse,” couldn’t we conclude that it would be, in fact, catastrophic?

I urge you to do a comprehensive review of this project, considering the destructive and long-lasting environmental, health, and economic impacts from fracking to climate change. Consider, too, the cumulative effects of all of the proposed trafficking of fossil fuel – coal and oil – in the region. We do not want to find out, first hand, how “much worse” a spill would be in the Columbia. Do not sacrifice our children, our community, and our environment for the profits of an indifferent few.

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<sup>1</sup> “Tesoro crews work to recover oil from Tioga spill”, *Prairie Business*, 10/18/13  
[http://www.prairiebizmag.com/event/article/id/16427/publisher\\_ID/46/](http://www.prairiebizmag.com/event/article/id/16427/publisher_ID/46/)

<sup>2</sup> See “Oil Spill in North Dakota Raises Detection Concerns”, *The New York Times*, 10/23/13  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/24/us/oil-spill-in-north-dakota-raises-detection-concerns.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/24/us/oil-spill-in-north-dakota-raises-detection-concerns.html?_r=0)

<sup>3</sup> See “State says Tesoro 'willfully violated' safety rules, which led to fatal explosion”, Seattle King 5 News, king5.com, 10/4/10, <http://www.king5.com/news/local/State-says-Tesoro-willfully-violated-safety-rules-which-led-to-fatal-explosion-104290704.html>

