

Testimony before Portland City Council

Leslie Kochan, On behalf of Climate Jobs, a project of Portland Jobs with Justice

kochanleslie@gmail.com

9/18/2019

Climate Jobs urges the city of Portland to fully integrate the needs of workers into its climate change planning and implementation process.

We have three recommendations:

1. The city's Climate Action Plan and Climate Emergency Resolution should acknowledge workers who are on the frontline of climate change.

- These workers include those who are exposed to dangerous air emissions and spills due to their work in fossil fuel or fossil fuel dependent industries. They include petrochemical workers, diesel equipment operators and asphalt paving workers, among others.

- And they include those workers who are adversely affected by hotter weather and extreme weather events, for instance construction workers, letter carriers, firefighters, and responders to flood waters that may contain hazardous materials and pathogens.

2. The Action Plan and Emergency Resolution should acknowledge frontline workers who are in need of a "just transition".

We laud the city for its support of a Green New Deal with a just transition for workers in its Emergency Resolution, Section M. However, elsewhere in these documents, workers are not included as members of the just transition community.

This omission of workers is ironic, as the term "just transition" comes from the labor movement. In 1993, Oil, Chemical, & Atomic Workers Union leader, Tony Mazzochi, coined the expression "superfund for workers." This was based on his understanding that workers should not be abandoned as jobs are lost during the transition away from unhealthy and dangerous industries. In 1997, the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union endorsed the term "just transition" in lieu of "superfund for workers."

3. The city of Portland should bring labor unions to the table to develop plans and strategies that support frontline workers.

Labor has a role to play in the creation a stronger and more inclusive Climate Plan and Emergency Resolution.

Labor has the expertise necessary to develop robust health and safety strategies for those workers who face dangerous exposures and extreme weather – the city should commit to working on such a strategy.

Labor has the knowledge to assist the city with its role in a just transition for workers as part of the Green New Deal.

The city's support for implementation of the Portland Clean Energy Fund is but one example of how cities can support meaningful change that will benefit all frontline groups and should serve as a positive starting point for future efforts.

**From:** [leslie.kochan](mailto:leslie.kochan)  
**To:** [Moore-Love, Karla](mailto:Moore-Love, Karla)  
**Cc:** [McClymont, Keelan](mailto:McClymont, Keelan)  
**Subject:** Re: Wed morning testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 2, 2019 3:01:03 PM

---

Thanks for the quick reply Karla. I'm aware of the July 15th meeting but unfortunately cannot be there. Please schedule me for the 9:30, Sept 18th slot.

On Tue, Jul 2, 2019 at 2:27 PM Moore-Love, Karla <[Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov)> wrote:

Hi Leslie,

The next available date to speak is 9:30am September 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Currently only Commissioner Fritz is absent on September 25th.

There is a July 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm-8:30pm "Community Forum" on Zenith, location to be determined that the Mayor's Office is putting together.

Let me if you still want to schedule a three-minute Communication in September.

Regards,

Karla



Karla Moore-Love

Council Clerk | City Hall Rm 130  
503.823.4086

**NOTICE:** The Council Clerk's Office (Room 130) is temporarily closed due to construction. Please visit Room 310 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor to drop off Council documents or to sign up for a Communication spot.

**From:** leslie kochan <[kochanleslie@gmail.com](mailto:kochanleslie@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 2, 2019 12:28 PM

**To:** Council Clerk – Testimony <[CCTestimony@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:CCTestimony@portlandoregon.gov)>  
**Cc:** Moore-Love, Karla <[Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov)>; McClymont, Keelan <[Keelan.McClymont@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Keelan.McClymont@portlandoregon.gov)>  
**Subject:** Wed morning testimony

Hi All,

I would like to testify on Zenith's transport of tar sands into Portland during one of your September Wednesday meetings. I could be available any Wednesday morning in September. Please let me know if you have spaces remaining and, if so, which day works.

Thanks much,


Leslie Kochan

Request of Leslie Kochan to address Council regarding Zenith's transport of tar sands into Portland (Communication)

SEP 18 2019

PLACED ON FILE

Filed SEP 10 2019  
**MARY HULL CABALLERO**  
Auditor of the City of Portland

By   
Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Hardesty		
4. Eudaly		
Wheeler		