

From: [Noelle Studer-Spevak](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Zenith testimony
Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 9:46:50 PM

Hello There,

Please add me to the council communications waitlist for May 5, 12, or 19. I'd like to talk about Zenith from a Cully Neighborhood perspective.

Noelle Studer-Spevak | noellest@gmail.com | 503.358.2055
zip code: 97218

Request of Noelle Studer-Spevak to address Council regarding Zenith from
a Cully Neighborhood perspective (Communication)

May 19, 2021
Placed on file

Filed 5/11/2021

MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

Tristan R
By Sakamoto Digitally signed by Tristan R
Sakamoto
Date: 2021.05.11 07:54:14 -07'00'
Deputy

Commissioners voted as follows (Yea or Nay)

Rubio -
Ryan -
Hardesty -
Mapps -
Wheeler -



Portland City Council
1221 SW 4th Avenue,
Portland, OR 97204

RE: Zenith Testimony 5/19/21

Mayor Wheeler and Esteemed Council Members,

My name is Noelle Studer-Spevak, speaking on behalf of Families for Climate. I live in Cully, one of the most racially and economically diverse neighborhoods in our city, with an abundance of industry and a main rail line carrying goods from the western U.S. & Canada.

Families for Climate and many of my Cully neighbors ask that the City NOT sign off on the land-use compatibility statement, which Zenith needs to continue operating its tar sands crude transfer terminal in North Portland. A land use compatibility statement (LUCS) from the City is required by The Department of Environmental Quality to renew an air pollution permit, which expired in 2012.¹

There are two critical reasons why the City should not issue the LUCS:

- First: we are in a climate emergency. And the future of humanity depends on elected officials doing everything possible to keep carbon in the ground. Hampering fossil fuel companies' access to world markets is exactly what cities need to do. This is a concrete example of how climate leaders hold the line² and stand up to the fossil fuel industry, which is stealing our children's future.
- Second, these trains put our families in real danger. I am a parent leader at Rigler Elementary, and the dramatic increase in explosive crude oil trains rolling through our school boundaries over the past four years puts us at grave risk. Tar sands crude volume flowing through Zenith has quadrupled during the same period that railroad companies have cut staffing by 20%, sacrificing car inspections and track maintenance.³ We remember the 2016 Mosier oil train derailment. We also remember the 2018 NW Metals fire – with 500 neighbors evacuated late, haphazardly, and lacking language-specific information on how to return home safely. Portland struggled to extinguish that fire with 170 firefighters;⁴ we don't even want to think about a disastrous oil train explosion.

¹ <https://www.columbiariverkeeper.org/news/2021/4/zenith-news>

² <https://www.sightline.org/research/thin-green-line/>

³ <https://www.sightline.org/news/2021/may/16/u-s-rail-industry-defends-safety-record-amid-staffing-cuts/>

⁴ <https://www.columbian.com/news/2021/may/16/u-s-rail-industry-defends-safety-record-amid-staffing-cuts/>

⁴ <https://www.wweek.com/news/2018/07/04/a-five-alarm-fire-at-a-junkyard-sent-toxic-smoke-billowing-through-a-portland-residential-neighborhood-state-regulators-had-looked-the-other-way/>

So, what should you do?

Zenith Energy will come to the Bureau of Development Services with a request for a LUCS sometime this summer. Those of us living in the blast zone urge the City, specifically Commissioner Dan Ryan and the Bureau of Development Services, to decline to issue the air pollution LUCS. This action would align with Portland's 2015 landmark legislation banning expansion of fossil fuel transportation & storage infrastructure, and it would protect the health & safety of the people you serve.

If the City grants the LUCS, it would open the floodgates for fossil fuel to flow freely from the Western U.S. & Canada to the world, and it would render Portland's 2020 Declaration of Climate Emergency meaningless.

At Zenith's request, there is no public input process for the LUCS, and this is why we, your constituents, have come before Council for the past 5 weeks imploring you to put yourself in your own shoes 20 years from now:

- Will you regret lacking the moral courage to stand up to powerful carbon interests?
- Or will you be proud that you linked arms with other city council members along the west coast to hold the thin green line?

Portland's 111,000 children are counting on you to protect them today and safeguard their futures.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Noelle Studer-Spevak', with a stylized, flowing script.

Noelle Studer-Spevak M.P.A., M.S.
Families for Climate
Padres Unidos de Rigler