

RESOLUTION No.

Adopt a policy opposing coal trains traveling through the City of Portland until an area-wide Environmental Impact Statement is completed. (Resolution)

WHEREAS, the City of Portland and State of Oregon have committed to greenhouse gas reduction goals; and

WHEREAS, in 2009 the City of Portland approved the Climate Action Plan, with a goal of achieving a 40 percent reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 and an 80 percent reduction by 2050; and

WHEREAS, burning coal releases harmful greenhouse gasses and contributes to global climate change and ultimately must be phased out and replaced with clean alternative renewable forms of energy production; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland worked with Portland General Electric and many community partners to reach agreement to cease coal operations at the Boardman power plant, Oregon's only coal-burning power plant, by 2020 (Exhibit A); and

WHEREAS, toxic chemicals from coal-fired energy plants in Asia rise in the winds and are carried over the Pacific Ocean, resulting in increased air pollution on the west coast of the United States; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that mercury—a potent neuro-toxin—is released from burning coal, and that nearly one-fifth of the mercury in the Willamette River originated in Asia; and

WHEREAS, many of the proposed coal export facilities will result in increased rail traffic through Portland, obstructing local roads; causing additional noise and air pollution; decreasing property values; and delaying emergency vehicles, commuters, passenger rail, business and domestic traffic in residential communities; and

WHEREAS, up to one ton of coal dust can escape from each rail car in transit which is a health concern because it can cause asthma attacks, pulmonary inflammation, bronchitis, emphysema, and cancer; and

WHEREAS, over 135 Oregon physicians, 180 health professionals and public health advocates, the Environmental Justice Task Force, the Chairs of 14 North Portland Neighborhood Associations, and the Yakama Nation have called on Governor Kitzhaber to review a comprehensive Health Impact Assessment before approving any coal export permits; and

WHEREAS, noise, diesel emissions, and toxic coal dust from the increased rail traffic will negatively impact the livability of Portland's neighborhoods and the health of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, increased rail traffic through the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area will impede Portlanders' access to this valuable recreational resource; and

WHEREAS, more than twenty cities and counties in the Northwest have passed resolutions or written letters expressing their concern about the potential adverse impacts of coal exports in their communities, and called for the Army Corps to study the cumulative and comprehensive impacts of coal exports; and

WHEREAS, local, state and federal officials including Mayor Sam Adams and Governor John Kitzhaber have expressed concerns about the real and potential harm to our collective communities, as well as called on the Army Corps of Engineers to require a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed coal export facilities in Oregon and Washington (See Exhibits B-C); and

WHEREAS, the Linnton Neighborhood Association, the North Portland Coalition of Neighborhoods, and the Southeast Uplift Coalition of Neighborhoods, which are adjacent to rail lines, have called for an area-wide or programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to be performed; and

WHEREAS, the Cities of Hood River, Oregon; and Seattle, Washington have each stated opposition to transporting coal through their jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Environmental Assessments, as the Army Corps of Engineers currently requires, do not thoroughly review the impacts or allow for sufficient public input in the process; and

WHEREAS, coal trains traveling through our city will have significant consequences for Portlanders, and it is of paramount importance that community members are fully engaged in the decision-making process from the beginning; and

WHEREAS, an area-wide Environmental Impact Statement will ensure that the effects of increased coal export, its alternatives, and possible mitigations, are fully considered, and that the community has adequate opportunity to comment;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Portland opposes coal export on trains through its jurisdiction until a complete National Environmental Policy Act process, including an area-wide Environmental Impact Statement, is completed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Portland supports the development and review of a comprehensive Health Impact Assessment prior to approval of coal export permits by any state, regional or federal agency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Portland requests that the Army Corps of Engineers require an area-wide Environmental Impact Statement that studies the

cumulative and comprehensive impacts of the five proposed coal export terminals in Oregon and Washington, before any coal export facility is approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Portland intends to address any impacts to public health, safety and property caused by the transport of coal through Portland by actively enforcing applicable local public health, safety, building, electrical and fire codes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Portland intends to address any impacts to surface and groundwater caused by the transport of coal through Portland by actively enforcing any applicable environmental statutes delegated to the City of Portland; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Portland will request that the Railroad companies make public and properly notify citizens of any plans for new or expanded rail facilities or any anticipated increases in rail traffic volume; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Portland will request that the Railroads provide representatives to meet periodically with local citizen groups and local government officials to address local concerns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Portland will request that the Railroads mitigate any public safety hazards created by the transport of coal through Portland; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Portland will request that the Railroads submit an emergency environmental cleanup plan in case of accidental derailment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Portland supports economic growth that contributes to citizens' health, safety, and well-being, and that on balance, adheres to principles of sustainable development and an overall reduction of carbon emissions.

Adopted by the Council:

Commissioner Fritz

Prepared by: Milena Malone

Date Prepared: [Sept. 13th, 2012]

LaVonne Griffin-Valade

Auditor of the City of Portland

By

Deputy

1073

See Substitute

36959

Agenda No.
RESOLUTION NO.

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<p>INTRODUCED BY Commissioner/Auditor: Comm Fritz</p>	<p>CLERK USE: DATE FILED <u>SEP 14 2012</u></p>
<p>COMMISSIONER APPROVAL</p> <p>Mayor—Finance and Administration - Adams</p> <p>Position 1/Utilities - Fritz <i>Amanda Fritz</i></p> <p>Position 2/Works - Fish</p> <p>Position 3/Affairs - Saltzman</p> <p>Position 4/Safety - Leonard</p>	<p>LaVonne Griffin-Valade Auditor of the City of Portland</p>
<p>BUREAU APPROVAL</p> <p>Bureau: N/A Bureau Head:</p>	<p>By: <i>Lauran Parsons</i> Deputy</p>
<p>Prepared by: Milena Malone Date Prepared: September 10, 2012</p>	<p>ACTION TAKEN:</p>
<p>Financial Impact & Public Involvement Statement</p> <p>Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amends Budget <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Portland Policy Document If "Yes" requires City Policy paragraph stated in document. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Council Meeting Date September 19, 2012</p>	
<p>City Attorney Approval: required for contract, code, easement, franchise, charter, Comp Plan</p>	

AGENDA
<p>TIME CERTAIN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Start time: 2:00 pm</p> <p>Total amount of time needed: 60 min (for presentation, testimony and discussion)</p>
<p>CONSENT <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>REGULAR <input type="checkbox"/> Total amount of time needed: _____ (for presentation, testimony and discussion)</p>

FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA	COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:	
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz	1. Fritz	
2. Fish	2. Fish	
3. Saltzman	3. Saltzman	
4. Leonard	4. Leonard	
Adams	Adams	