

City Council – Proposed Propane Terminal – December 17, 2014 – Kelly O’Hanley, MD

My name is Dr. Kelly O’Hanley and I am here not to testify in the normal sense - but rather to pose some important questions to you members of the City Council regarding the proposed propane terminal that would be located across from Hayden Island.

I wonder - do any you have reasons to question the scientific findings of the International Panel on Climate Change – namely that climate change is real, caused by human activities and progressing rapidly? If you who accept the science – do you agree that real solutions must rely on political and not individual responses? And as elected officials of a leading US city - what do you see as your moral obligations regarding this threat?

On January 13, the City’s Planning and Sustainability Commission will be considering a change to the zoning code that protects the environmentally fragile riparian zone at the Port of Portland’s Rivergate Terminal with a view to allowing a terminal for propane (aka, liquid propane gas or LPG) – which is a byproduct of environmentally destructive fracking. The Commission’s recommendations will need to be accepted or rejected by you.

What are the benefits to Portland were it to serve as a conduit for LPG? Short-term tax revenues and a few permanent jobs? Given the threat of climate change and the arc of history how much importance should these be given? Are those our thirty pieces of silver? Some elected officials are said to embrace LPG because it is “less bad” than other fossil fuels. Is that the standard to which we should aspire? Some argue the LPG is a “bridging fuel” that can serve as a substitute fossil fuel energy source. However, this argument would hold only if worse fossil fuels were being dismantled. But such is not the case. LPG is simply an additional carbon fuel. On another note - do you have concerns about the effects of idling diesel locomotives on the air quality around the would-be terminal and the impact poor air quality on nearby residents?

Do you stand by your statement, made this October in connection to the approval of your Climate Change Preparation Strategy, when you said, “Reducing carbon emissions remains a crucial component of climate change preparation work”? Can you imagine Portland leading the way toward a green economy? If not here in the Pacific Northwest – than where? Maybe China? Will they pull ahead in the green economy? Or maybe Germany?

Are you are prepared to help Portland live up to its national designation as a ‘Climate Action Champion’. If so, say “NO” a propane terminal being introduced into Portland and to our city serving as a fossil fuel corridor. I believe such a decision would make a huge statement about Portland’s core values. Such a stance could help draw dynamic, progressive young people and businesses to our city. That is the Portland and the future that so many of us want to help build. Please lead us there!

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Kelly O'Hanley <kohanley@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 05, 2014 5:08 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: request to testify at the December 17 City Council meeting

Karla,

I am writing to request the opportunity to testify at the December 17 City Council meeting. I would plan to speak about Portland's role/actions with regards to climate change. Apparently you had been in communication with Lowen Berman; as of his most recent contact with you - there was still an open slot for someone to speak. He and I hope there is still an opening and if there is - we request it can be allocated to me.

Can you please confirm receipt of this e-mail and also please let me know if I will be granted the chance to speak.

Thank you fro considering this request.
Kelly O

Kelly O'Hanley
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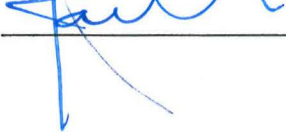
Request of Kelly O'Hanley to address Council regarding Portland's role/actions
with regards to climate change (Communication)

DEC 17 2014

PLACED ON FILE

Filed DEC 12 2014

LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Novick		
Hales		