

Dear Members of the Planning and Sustainability Commission, Mayor Hales, and Members of the Portland City Council:

Looking at the tall trees in the back yards outside our kitchen window, eating breakfast, my husband admired one particular tall evergreen, so straight and beautiful, puff balls of green needles rising high into the sky. “Whose yard is that tree in?” (We have lived in this neighborhood for seven months.) I answered that it seems like the tall trees belong to everyone, since they were here before any in the neighborhood. Whose yard the roots are currently in is the steward only. “Yes, it’s probably well over a hundred years old,” Robert said.

That is the way with the river and the whole earth. We are the stewards only, during our short lives here.

If the City of Portland wishes to be a good steward, live up to its honor of receiving a Presidential Climate Champion Award, and be responsible to seven and seventy generations to come, then it cannot approve the Pembina Terminal for explosive liquid propane gas, transported by rail from Canada. It is potentially dangerous all along the way and has limited advantage to our area anyway. Building pipes to transport propane gas through the river to ship to Asia may provide jobs and tax income, but there are other ways to do these same things. How about jobs to work on cleaning up the river?

We urge the Planning and Sustainability Commission to vote no on the Pembina Terminal and any changes to current laws that would allow such carbon transfer through the city. We urge Mayor Hales and the City Council of Portland to support this no vote.

Thank you sincerely,

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