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Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 11:23 AM

To: Planning and Sustainability Commission

Subject: Comments Regarding Propane Terminal

I want to start by saying that I have attended all the public hearings on this subject. On the pro-terminal side of this argument, I've heard mostly talk about jobs and tax revenue - the standard topics of economic bribery practiced by powerful corporations. On the anti-terminal side, I've heard a lot of valid concerns about safety. However, as the Planning and Sustainability Commission, you seem to have lost sight of your primary focus: the issue of sustainability. There has been almost no discussion at these meetings about what climate change requires of us or how this project might tie into the longterm, sustainable planning that you should be focused on. That part is completely unambiguous - we need to bring emissions down to zero so carbon stops accumulating in the atmosphere. The only way to do that is to transition to 100% renewables and eliminate ALL fossil fuel use over time. That is clearly not compatible with major investment in fossil fuel infrastructure. Given that this project is completely at odds with achieving climate goals, this should have been an open and shut case. It doesn't matter how many jobs this project will create or how much money it might bring into the city because an expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure is absolutely incompatible with the need to transition to 100% renewable energy.

You should be embarrassed at all the time that you have wasted courting a fossil fuel company, especially one so heavily invested in fracking and tarsands operations. If we are going to seriously address climate change, then there is no future for the fossil fuel industry. Their activities need to contract, not expand. Instead of facing this reality, though, it seems like you have been blinded by the money they are attempting to bribe you (and Mayor Hales) with. Let's not kid ourselves here - Pembina's bottom line is in direct conflict with climate change solutions. They aren't here to offer real solutions. They're here to try and rebrand fracking byproducts as "clean" energy, and make us out as fools in the process. They're clinging to a dying industry and trying to squeeze out every last dime of profits that they can. Their business depends on expanding fossil fuel use, not decreasing it, as climate change requires.

The only thing that Pembina is really offering here is money. They are attempting to outright bribe you. Sadly, it's a tactic that tends to work because we are stuck in an economic system that prioritizes short-term financial gains over longterm planning and common sense. The majority of people, and local governments, are barely scraping by financially, which means there is enormous pressure to take whatever money is offered, to focus on now and postpone planning for the future, to take the money and act as if climate change is somehow not your problem but somebody else's. Everybody seems to expect that somebody else will save us, therefore they don't have to make the tough choices. The problem, however, is that everybody takes the same stance and all these decisions add up. The result is that despite decades of pledging to address climate change, as of 2014, emissions in the US were still rising. After decades of trying to "work with" profit-hungry corporations, after decades of choosing the short-term gains and postponing serious action, runaway climate change is now at our doorstep.

So what does climate change require of us? What should we be doing instead of kissing the asses of fossil fuel executives? Climate change requires a major transformation away from fossil

fuels and toward renewables, as quickly as possible. A massive rollout of renewables, from wind farms to rooftop solar, would create a lot of good jobs. Climate change also requires a reduction in the amount of energy we use, which means big changes to our transportation systems and food systems. We won't be able to depend on oil and gas for transportation in the future. Instead, we are going to need much larger public transportation systems, powered by clean energy. Building such a system would create a lot of good jobs. We also won't be able to depend on oil to ship food half way around the world (or on drought-stricken California). Instead, we need to produce more food locally, using sustainable farming methods. This would also create jobs. We need to retrofit houses and commercial buildings to be more efficient. We need to produce more products locally, instead of relying on so many Asian imports. All of these things would not only seriously address climate change but create a more vibrant, healthy local economy. These are the kinds of projects Portland needs, not a project that will help flood Asian markets with more cheap fossil fuels. So why are you wasting your time discussing this distracting nonsense?

It's time for Portland to get real about climate change. The only way to do that is to stop letting Big Business bribe us and to pursue real solutions in earnest. So, are you going to act like real climate champions and send these fossil fuel fat cats packing, or are you going to take the money and allow us to continue on our short-sighted path toward runaway climate change?

Sincerely,

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