



Oregon State
Building and Construction Trades Council
AFL-CIO



March 26, 2015

Chair Andre Baugh
Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission
1900 SW 4th Ave, Suite 7100
Portland, OR 97201

Dear Chair Baugh and Commission Members,

The 25,000 members of the Oregon State Building Trades Council would like to go on record in support of the code changes necessary to allow the proposed Pembina Propane Terminal Project to move forward.

Pembina contacted me a few months ago. At our first meeting, they made it clear that safety is their company's number one priority and commitment. From the Building Trades members building their projects, to the workers who operate and maintain their facilities, to the people in the corporate offices – safety is number one. Our members are the safest and best trained workforce in the Northwest and will build their facility to the highest standards.

At our second meeting, we discussed a Project Labor Agreement for the project. This will insure that local union workers will build the project. By mutual agreement, we agreed to add language that will provide MBE/WBE contracting opportunities. Apprenticeship is our system of higher education. Apprenticeship is how we train young men and women in a craft of their choice, so when they reach journey level, they will have the skills they need to have a career with family wages and health and pension benefits. But, without jobs, there are no apprenticeship opportunities. On the job training provides 90% of an apprentice's learning; the other 10% is provided in the classroom.

We talk a lot about equity and sustainability in Portland, but what about equity for women and people of ethnicity who are unemployed or underemployed? How do we provide real and meaningful job opportunities for them so they can participate in the economy? How do we provide opportunities for family wage jobs so they can sustain themselves and their families? This project will provide much needed jobs and opportunities for folks who need a path to middle class life, as well as our members. It will also provide jobs for architects, engineers, material suppliers and equipment manufacturers.

The Portland 2035 Comprehensive Plan says in part: "Ensure there is commercial and industrial land available to support 140,000 new jobs." There are seven key directions as part of the 2035 Comp Plan, one of which states: "Encourage job growth: Provide and increase the productivity of land, and Infrastructure for businesses, institutions and industry to meet the needs of 140,000 new jobs citywide. Invest in industrial districts and the Central City, facilitate the growth of colleges and hospitals and support the success of small businesses in neighborhood business districts."

We feel this project fits right into this goal, and wholeheartedly support actions needed to move it forward. Thank you for your time. If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

John Mohlis
Executive Secretary