

Dear Planning and Sustainability Commission, Mayor Hales and Portland City Council members;

Once again, my work schedule does not allow me to come to the latest public hearing on the subject of the proposed Pembina propane terminal. Since the last hearing in January, we have only seen increasing rejection of investment in fossil fuel infrastructure. As the divest/reinvest movement takes off, with major private and public foundations pulling their money out of fossil fuel projects, I urge the city of Portland to think about the real future of our city. What kinds of projects do we want to support with public money? Investing in infrastructure, directly or indirectly, that perpetuates fossil fuel extraction will not be on the right side of history.

As I have already commented previously, the science around the urgency of addressing climate change is beyond debate. Several recent reports from government and non-government agencies have also highlighted how existing fossil fuel infrastructure is sufficient to meet current domestic needs while we transition to clean energy sources. Building this terminal would meet short-term international needs for fuels, and it would (possibly) make money for the shareholders of the Canadian company building the terminal. It would provide little beyond limited short-term economic benefit to our city, and at a cost of possible safety hazards and the knowledge that our city was adding to its contributions to global warming. In how many years - twenty, ten, or five - will such a project look ridiculously short-sighted? While there are also potential safety and local pollution issues to consider, the main reason that I feel the Commission should reject this proposal is that expanding facilities for the use of fossil fuels of any kind, including liquid propane gas, cannot be aligned with the PSC's purpose of ensuring the development of a sustainable city economy.

We have a critical opportunity, as a city, to lead the transition to a clean energy economy. It is an exciting, positive time, and a tremendous opportunity lies ahead of us. We already have a reputation for being environmentally aware and innovative. We can decide to build on that and become not just nationally but internationally recognized for stepping up to the great climate challenge, or we can throw our reputation away. I urge you again to reject this proposal.

Thank you for your work on behalf of our city. Sincerely,

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