

4132 SE Grant St.
Portland, OR 97214
6 April 2015

Andre Baugh, Chair
Planning and Sustainability Commission
City of Portland
1900 SW 4th Ave., Ste. 7100
Portland, OR 97210

Re: Terminal 6 Environmental Overlay Zone Boundary and Code Amendment

Dear Chairman Baugh and Portland Sustainability Commission Members:

Thank you for hearing all of us here today as you move toward a decision regarding whether you will recommend a rule change. The change would facilitate a small but essential component of a new industrial project proposed for Portland, the Pembina propane export terminal, and other future proposals like it, making possible significant fossil fuel exports in areas where the existing rule makes it unfeasible.

The decision in the smallest sense is whether highly chilled, pressurized liquefied propane gas may be pumped in an aboveground pipe from proposed large storage tanks over an environmentally sensitive zone into awaiting oceangoing vessels.

As with all decisions, however, context is everything and, in this case, the context couldn't be bigger. Of the many factors weighting this decision I wish to touch upon four related factors:

- That all of us as adult human beings are keepers of the span of living time. Rapidly accelerating global climate change is one of the drivers of the Sixth Great Extinction we are currently experiencing. Living in a time of human-exacerbated global warming, with readily observable impacts today as well as tipping points now being reached for uncontrollable climate feedback loops, make this moral imperative clear. The acceleration of human-caused global warming is causing such a rapid change in global weather patterns that life forms, in their great diversity and interconnectedness, cannot adapt quickly enough, and many are diminishing in number, or disappearing, thus affecting other life forms in the great web of life. If we break from the duty to be stewards of this sacred legacy of life and how it has evolved and diversified over the millennia, it is on us the infinite silence that follows.
- That this project, and any others like it that it paves the way for, will have a significant, worldwide impact on global warming, from the release of methane and other greenhouse gases during the fracking process from which propane is derived, through the energy required to pressurize and transport the propane in daily unit trains traveling from Canada to the proposed terminal in Portland. From the electricity required to cool the large refrigerated storage tanks, and finally in shipping and their end use in Korea, China, or other Asian countries for anything from plastics manufacturing to fuel for vehicles. International trade agreements could make it impossible to change course even over decades, once a commitment is made to these projects.

- That the decisions we make regarding fossil fuel usage individually and together are compelling and incremental. So compelling and incremental, it is tempting to make one more decision in favor of their usage. Climate scientists tell us we have less than 15 years to cut back fossil fuel usage by an unprecedented amount or face untenable rapid temperature rise globally. The White House has recently set reduction goals to 40% by 2030, which would be an amazing achievement, and a controversial goal, as many scientists believe it isn't enough soon enough. However, it is one Portland, as White House designated 'climate champions' needs to accomplish at a minimum.
- Local, state, and federal laws and regulations are frequently lacking in adequate consideration of greenhouse gas emissions. However, some significant regulatory process does exist, and should be used given the moral freight of this project, as it is, and for the precedent it sets. For a decision that commits us to such a profound greenhouse footprint for decades to come, it is essential that we take a step back and go through each proper channel we have at our disposal. Currently it looks as if such a freighted decision is being made without all the well thought-out safeguards we do have in place. The State of Oregon has empowered the Energy Facility Siting Council with jurisdiction over siting of large energy facilities of which the proposed Pembina terminal is surely one. EFSC has experts available to look at the effects of the proposed Pembina facility on soils, land use, fish and wildlife, threatened and endangered species, scenic resources, historic, cultural, and archeological resources, recreation, public services, waste and carbon dioxide emissions and a mandate to do so. The zoning code should not be amended until this work, as well as the pending rail safety and Coast Guard marine safety reports are delivered later in the year. Additionally, people have given testimony today and submitted written testimony and it is hard for me to fathom how that material can be properly considered if a decision is rendered today, as I understand it might be. I highly urge a delay in decision until all these proper channels have been utilized for a fuller view of the project.

Thank you, again, for this opportunity to write to you for your consideration and to speak.

Sincerely,

Angela van Patten

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