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Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission  
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Commissioners:

I attended your January 13 hearing about Pembina's zoning variance application. On the way to the hearing, listening to the news on NPR radio, I heard that snow pack on Mt. Hood was 70% below normal for that date and that NOAA was warning, **"This may be the new normal."**

Only those with dangerously short term and narrowly focused financial interests argue that we can continue burning fossil fuels at current rates without inducing disaster. Anyone with basic business experience understands that investors seek the greatest possible return on capital. Every dollar allocated to the use of carbon-based fuels commits us to using more of those fuels and is a dollar not invested in the development of sustainable alternatives. Every decision is crucial if we are to change course in time to avoid ecological catastrophe. Please don't waste your chance to do the right thing in this matter: vote no.

In your hearing room, I've heard Pembina's attorney make impassioned assertions about his employer's safety record. But, I've also heard him admit that Pembina will not be responsible for the safety of propane's transportation by rail or by ship – arguably the larger parts of the overall, proposed operation. The extraordinary risks of this project are especially out of place in areas of population density and ecological sensitivity. Don't be part of endangering Portland's citizens and environment: vote no.

Through various combinations of ability, ambition and chance, each of you has reached a position of authority on the Commission. By accepting the responsibility of leadership, you've obligated yourselves to look at the big picture. Economic inconvenience is brief. Extinction is permanent. Vote no.

Regards,

Harlan Shober

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*"Every breath you take/ Every move you make/ Every bond you break/ Every step you take/ I'll be watching you."* -- Sting