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To: Planning and Sustainability Commission
Subject: Pembina proposal

I hope to testify this afternoon, but in case that is not possible, please consider the following:

I commend the city on its draft Climate Action Plan, which clearly took into account the considerable public concern it heard regarding the need to establish a fossil fuel export policy and to oppose such exports through Oregon. I also applaud the long-term planning and policies that prohibit the transportation of hazardous materials in sensitive environmental zones. Permitting Pembina to transport, liquefy and export propane from Terminal Six would be a betrayal of the kind of commitment to responsible public policy the city has shown in the past. Given the recent loss of container freight business at the Port of Portland, I'm sure it is, in the short term, tempting to open the doors to Pembina. But in the long term, what would that do? It would put citizens of Portland and Vancouver at risk, since propane is the most volatile of the various fossil fuels that are being fracked out of the ground. It would provide infrastructure required to conduct dangerous and damaging practices, risking air and water quality and using precious energy for processing and transportation of fuels that would be burned in Asia and return to us as polluted air. Even the "safest" rail cars have not stopped explosions, and if anything happened at the processing site, we probably won't need to worry about "the big one" being an earthquake. To grant this permit would be to gut policies that have been arrived at through public processes that have clearly indicated that Portland should be a place that understands two things:

1. That the economy is indeed a wholly owned subsidiary of the environment, in that if we have no clean water to drink or clean air to breathe, it will be hard to make money.
2. That we need to think long term, following Gifford Pinchot's motto for the Forest Service, "The greatest good for the greatest number in the long run."

I urge you to deny Pembina's proposal, which puts the public at long-term risk for the sake of Pembina's short-term gains.

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