

Pembina Propane Terminal, code modification hearing – April 7, 2015

Good Afternoon. Thank you for taking time to hear my concerns about the Pembina Propane terminal.

My concerns about the terminal exist on several levels. Many others here will dive into the details about the explosive nature of the fuel and the catastrophic effects that would ensue under an accident scenario. These scenarios are not remote – we are constantly reminded that a once in a millennia earthquake is in our near future.

Rather than continue that narrative, I would like to focus on the long term message that your decision will be making. This is a decision that could signal the beginning of the end for the carbon extractive industries. Especially the extreme versions of these fuels like the Alberta Tar Sands.

What could that signal accomplish –if you chose to not modify the code for the terminal? It would once again reinforce the message that Oregon is not for sale and that our environment is not for sale. We know that carbon based fuels are creating a worldwide crisis of destabilized weather patterns. Someone somewhere has to say enough. I submit that we should be that someone and here and now.

As part of this decision we need only refer to the financial statements of the major fossil fuel companies – they hold vast quantities of reserves – in excess of 5 times the acceptable carbon content our atmosphere and oceans can handle and still provide humans a habitable planet. Prudent analysis would price these reserves as worthless, but the markets are not pricing them that way. Why? The signals given by our government leadership and regulatory bodies are that no impediment will be placed in the way of their use of these reserves. While whole volumes could be written about how this is possible, we need only recognize that it is decisions like the one you are making today that keep this narrative alive.

I urge you to consider your grandchildren's grandchildren. Consider the world we are leaving them if we permit the use of those reserves – or continue hideous practice of finding more reserves in deep seas and frozen tundra. Now is the time to stop this madness. Please vote against the modification of the code to accommodate this terminal.

Sincerely,

Michael Wade  
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