

Personal Testimony Before Portland City Council
On Pembina Propane Terminal
The Rev. Dr. Charles S. Currie, Jr.

June 3, 2015

Good morning. My name is Rev. Dr. Chuck Currie. I am a resident of NE Portland and serve as a minister in the United Church of Christ, currently in the capacity of the Director of the Center for Peace and Spirituality and University Chaplain at Pacific University.

I can share with you this morning theological concerns to projects such as this one under consideration. Like the Audubon Society of Portland, I believe this project is inconsistent with Portland's Climate Change Action Plan.

In 2005, I joined over 1,000 religious leaders across the United States in signing a document called "God's Earth is Sacred: An Open Letter to Church and Society in the United States."

We declared:

The imperative first step is to repent of our sins, in the presence of God and one another. This repentance of our social and ecological sins will acknowledge the special responsibility that falls to those of us who are citizens of the United States. Though only five percent of the planet's human population, we produce one-quarter of the world's carbon emissions, consume a quarter of its natural riches, and perpetuate scandalous inequities at home and abroad. We are a precious part of Earth's web of life, but we do not own the planet and we cannot transcend its requirements for regeneration on its own terms. We have not listened well to the Maker of Heaven and Earth.

The second step is to pursue a new journey together, with courage and joy. By God's grace, all things are

made new. We can share in that renewal by clinging to God's trustworthy promise to restore and fulfill all that God creates and by walking, with God's help, a path different from our present course. To that end, we affirm our faith, propose a set of guiding norms, and call on our churches to rededicate themselves to this mission. We firmly believe that addressing the degradation of God's sacred Earth is the moral assignment of our time comparable to the Civil Rights struggles of the 1960s, the worldwide movement to achieve equality for women, or ongoing efforts to control weapons of mass destruction in a post-Hiroshima world.

In that spirit, I urge you to reject the proposal before you.

Office of The Rev. Dr. Chuck Currie
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Testimony by Rev. Kate Lore
June 3, 2015

Let me begin by thanking Mayor Hales for your leadership in pulling support for the Pembina Propane Terminal. May your courage inspire the *rest* of City Council to do likewise.

My primary reason for being here this morning to ask the City Council to write and adopt an energy policy that prohibits ALL FUTURE fossil fuel export projects from coming through our city. By this I mean ANY project involving the storage and transfer of oil, coal, liquefied natural gas and propane. I'll give you 3 sound reasons for this request.

Reason #1. Climate change is already killing and ruining the lives of the very people in Asia to whom we export fossil fuels. Recent news reports tell us:

- That over 1,800 people in India just died from record high temperatures attributed to climate-change;¹
- That air pollution in cities like Delhi is now so bad that it's giving young children the lungs of heavy smokers, thereby shortening their lives;² and
- That farmers in India have resorted to selling their children because climate change-related crop failures have left them penniless.³

Clearly, Asian countries needs more CLEAN energy alternatives, not more fossil fuel imports.

Reason #2. The latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change tells us that CO2 emissions from burning fossil fuels are still rising far too fast, putting us on a devastating path of a global temperature increase of 4 or 5 degrees. These scientists and economists say that in order to save ourselves, we will need to reduce emissions by at least 40% by midcentury.⁴ As a green city, Portland should be leading that effort.

Reason #3. Portland has a moral obligation to halt *anything* that exploits Native American and First Nations peoples – the very people whose territories are being despoiled by fracking and tar sand.

¹ <http://time.com/3901185/india-heatwave-death-toll-climate-change-heat->

² <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/indiahome/indianews/article-2565139/Capitals-worst-pollution-levels-affect-children.html>

³ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/20/india-climate-change-slavery-idUSKBN00522V20150520>

⁴ <http://stephenleahy.net/2015/03/>

Members of Council, if we do nothing, our climate will continue to spiral out of balance. To stabilize our climate for the long term, Portland must maintain its "climate champion" status and I ask that you oppose any new fossil fuel infrastructure or fossil fuel exports from our region."

Thank you for your time and attention.

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Kate Lore <klore@firstunitarianportland.org>
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2015 4:58 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: Re: speaking on June 3 Community concerns

Dear Karla,

Please consider this my formal notice that I will be speaking at the June 3 Council meeting.

Thank you,

Rev. Kate Lore

From: Moore-Love, Karla <Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2015 10:41 AM
To: Emily Herbert
Cc: Kate Lore; chuck.currie@pacificu.edu
Subject: RE: speaking on June 3 Community concerns

Emily – I understand you want to give your three minute spot to Rev Lore and Rev Dr Currie. That will be fine but they have to send in their own request. **Sorry for the short notice but this will have to be done by noon today.**

If they would both reply to this email that would be sufficient.

Regards,

Karla

Karla Moore-Love | Council Clerk
City of Portland | Office of the City Auditor
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Portland OR 97204-1900
email: Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov
NEW Testimony Email: cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov
phone:503.823.4086
Clerk's Webpage: www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/councilclerk
From: Emily Herbert [mailto:ewh1960@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2015 12:02 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: speaking on June 3 Community concerns

Karla, My slot (Emily Herbert) for June 3 will be filled by Rev. Kate Lore and Rev. Chuck Currie. Their contact information is below. They understand they have a total of 3 mins and would like to be called to speak together on City Energy Policy. They are speaking in their roles as Faith Leaders in the Community so I have included those addresses.

Rev Kate Lore
Social Justice Minister
First Unitarian Church
1034 SW 13th Ave, Portland, OR 97205

(503) 228-6389

<klore@firstunitarianportland.org>

Rev. Dr. Charles S. Currie, Jr.

Director, Center for Peace and Spirituality

Pacific University | UC A-118 | 2043 College Way | Forest Grove, Oregon 97116 | e-mail:

chuck.currie@pacificu.edu | o: 503-352-2032 | c: 971-322-7920 |

Best for All Creatures,

Emily Herbert

541-408-1516

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Emily Herbert <ewh1960@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2015 12:02 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: speaking on June 3 Community concerns

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Best for All Creatures,
Emily Herbert
541-408-1516


Request of Rev. Kate Lore and Rev. Dr. Charles Currie, Jr. to address Council regarding City Energy Policy (Communication)

JUN 03 2015

PLACED ON FILE

Filed MAY 29 2015

MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 
Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Novick		
Hales		