

Testimony, June 10th at Portland City Council
Adam L. Brunelle

When I first signed up to testify on this day, it was to express my strong opposition to the siting of a propane terminal on behalf of a destructive foreign corporation. The people of Portland will never again support fossil fuel infrastructure nor the politicians who fail to take a stand against it. Acknowledging this, the city should thoroughly involve the public in exploring a fossil fuel export ban that includes coal, oil, and natural gas like propane.

We face twin crises here in Portland. One is catastrophic climate change; the other, racial justice and inequality. But they are intertwined. I fear that in our attempts to solve the former, we exacerbate the latter. Portland is now the fastest gentrifying city in the US. While we have seen an emphasis on “process”—from toothless community benefit agreements and lofty equity goals to ‘action plans’ without the resources to implement them—we have seen little in terms of outcomes. I worry that Portland will eventually achieve its equity goals on paper, but only once most low-income residents and communities of color have been pushed outside the city limits.

I implore the city to prioritize anti-displacement strategies as a primary method to build climate resilience. This means more affordable housing, living wages, job training for the new economy, and a just transportation system for all.

I also want to challenge the city to lead the world when it comes to climate change. Vancouver, BC committed to 100% renewable energy by 2035. France instituted Ecoroof mandates for new construction. Boulder, CO took over its electric utility to provide more renewable energy to its residents. These are all policies the city should consider pursuing, in terms of feasibility and implementation.

One opportunity to confront the aforementioned dual crises while building resilience is through the Climate Action Plan program Solar Forward. The City should provide more direct funding with a mandate to supply solar systems to low-income residents. In Seattle, the Capitol Hill Community Solar Project sited a solar farm atop an affordable housing complex. In Oakland, GRID Alternatives provides solar panels for little to no upfront cost and trains low-income residents on the skills necessary for solar installation. But this is just one of many possible ways to build resilience that I hope the city will explore.

I will end with a quote from Naomi Klein: We’re fighting to leave it in the ground: no new fossil fuel frontiers. We’re fighting for societies powered by 100 percent renewable energy. We’re fighting for free public transit. We’re fighting for the principle that polluters should pay, that how we pay for the transition has to be justice-based. We’re fighting for the principle that the people who got the worst deal in the old economy should be the first in line to benefit in the new economy.

Moore-Love, Karla

June 10

From: Adam Brunelle <brunelleadam@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 11:41 AM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: Slot to address council

Karla,

I would like to request a slot to address City Council regarding sound public policy and the future sustainable economy, preferably at the June 3rd meeting. If not, then I will take the earliest available slot.

Best,

Adam Brunelle

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Adam Brunelle

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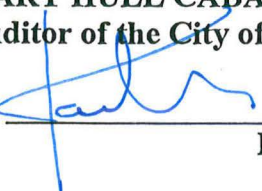
Request of Adam Brunelle to address Council regarding public policy and future sustainable economy (Communication)

JUN 10 2015

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Filed JUN 05 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		