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Sent: Thursday, September 08, 2016 8:59 PM
To: Planning and Sustainability Commission <psc@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: PSC Fossil Fuel Zoning Testimony: I want a full ban!

Testimony:

Thank you to the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability for its work in incorporating public input on its initial draft of the Fossil Fuel Terminal Zoning Amendments. The current draft is much improved, bringing the proposed changes closer to the original intent of the 2015 Resolution.

However, the current Fossil Fuel Zoning Amendments proposal still falls short of the bold and visionary resolution that Portland supported in the fall of 2015, which called for the city to “actively oppose expansion of infrastructure whose primary purpose is transporting or storing fossil fuels in or through Portland”. Although this draft prohibits new larger bulk terminals, it still allows new terminals up to 5 million gallons, provided that the terminal cannot shift fossil fuels from one transportation mode to another (i.e. rail to marine).

While this proposal will mark any bulk terminals as ‘non-conforming’, it still needs to strengthen the regulations on the size and type of expansion to pre-existing terminals. It is not clear from the draft if there is any binding limit to potential expansion at existing bulk fossil fuel terminals. The City’s intention with its 2015 Resolution was to ensure that changes to the City’s fossil fuel infrastructure would be used to improve safety, seismic resiliency, and the use of lower-carbon fuels.

I want the City of Portland and the Planning and Sustainability Commission to:

- 1 - Enact a full ban on all new fossil fuel terminals, large or small. After all, this was the plain language of the City’s 2015 Resolution, “to actively oppose” new fossil fuel infrastructure.
- 2 - Remove the exception for new facilities that are 5 million gallons or less which would allow more unit trains of dangerous fossil fuels like Bakken crude oil. Additionally, allowing new LNG storage in Portland is unnecessary: NW Natural has no current plans for more LNG storage in Portland.
- 3 - Strengthen restrictions on expansions allowed at existing terminals through adding binding limits as well as criteria for safety and climate impacts in the City’s non-conforming use review process.
- 4 - Add language to prevent smaller related “terminals” from clustering and aggregating to increase fossil fuel shipments through Portland.

Now more than ever the City of Portland has the opportunity to be a leader in the U.S. climate justice movement. With just a few more improvements to the Fossil Fuel Zoning Amendments, Portland could once again be on the forefront addressing the most pressing concern of our time.

Sincerely,

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