

Portland City Council Agenda Written Testimony
 Document Number 2025-070

	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
1	Nikki Mandell	Support		Yes	03/08/25 8:01 PM
2	Jan Zuckerman	Support	<p>Dear Councilors,</p> <p>After years of ignoring the public outcry over the false narrative provided by the city in its issuance of the 2022 LUCS to Zenith and once again at the Zenith work session on January 21, we now have an opportunity to finally get to the bottom of the many unanswered questions provided by DCA Oliveira and the City staff regarding business with Zenith Energy. The City also has the duty to hold Zenith Energy accountable for its violation of the franchise agreement. When DEQ handed the LUCS back to the city because Zenith was caught doing illegal modification and use of piping without the necessary permission to operate, the staff once again, against the will of the people, acquiesced to Zenith and approved the LUCS sending the message that this company can basically do whatever it wants.</p> <p>The Morillo-Green Resolution sends a very different message to Portlanders- that the City will be held to the highest standards, especially when decisions are made that impact the health and well being of the people for generations to come. It is time to do as Representative Al Green did, wave our canes and be prepared to face the consequences because the consequences of doing nothing are irreversible. Please support this resolution so that Portlanders can once again have faith in our city government.</p>	No	03/09/25 9:04 PM
3	Columbia Riverkeeper	Support	<p>Chair Clark, Vice-Chair Morillo, and Committee Members,</p> <p>I strongly support Resolution 2025-070 concerning the investigation of Zenith Energy's franchise agreement.</p> <p>After years of Zenith's ongoing violations being largely ignored, this resolution is an opportunity to protect the health and safety of Portlanders, an opportunity to reduce the threat of harm to communities all along the transport route, and an opportunity to finally hold a dangerous fossil fuel company accountable for years of rule breaking.</p> <p>This community has provided you with more than enough information to, at minimum, prompt an investigation. The Department of Environmental Quality's recent decision to issue Zenith a \$472,600 fine for illegal construction and a requirement for a new Land Use Compatibility Statement should be evidence enough of a violation of the franchise agreement. Please look carefully at the evidence in front of you. Zenith does not deserve yet another chance to prove it can not be trusted.</p> <p>Locally, protective action to reduce harm is more critical than ever. Together, we have a lot of work to do. We deserve the opportunity to put our energy into supporting the many diverse needs in our community. We can not afford to waste more time and precious resources accommodating Zenith, a fossil fuel company that has proven it has no intention of being part of the solution to the problem it is actively creating and that it continues to profit from.</p> <p>We are counting on you to do the right thing and pass this resolution.</p> <p>Thank you. Kate Murphy Columbia Riverkeeper</p>	No	03/10/25 8:23 AM

March 8, 2025

Chair Clark, Vice-Chair Morillo, and committee members –

I write in strong support of Resolution 2025-070, “Declare actions concerning Zenith Energy Terminal Holdings, LLC, including placing communications into the public record, demanding the Mayor to investigate violations of the Zenith franchise agreement, and urging the Auditor to conduct an investigation into the competing statements and arguments heard by Council on January 21st, 2025, by City staff, Zenith, and members of the public”

The “Whereas” declarations and appended documentation, identify fifteen very specific reasons that the administrative approval of Zenith Energy’s LUCS application undermines public confidence in city government and warrant investigation to determine whether actions by city administration and staff violated city rules and ordinances.

I urge you to amend this resolution to include:

1. Statement that this is “Binding City Policy,” as per [1.07.020 Definitions. | Portland.gov](#)
2. An additional “Whereas” to the effect that it appears that the city did not adhere to Binding City Policy [BCP-ENN-10.01](#) requiring specific actions prior to approving any action leading to increased oil-by-rail traffic as proposed in the Zenith Energy LUCS application; to wit:
 - a. the development and review of a comprehensive Health Impact Assessment prior to approval of any new oil transfer and storage permits by any state, regional or federal agency; and....
 - b. the City of Portland intends to address to the extent practicable any impacts to public health, safety and property caused by the transport of oil through Portland by actively enforcing applicable local public health, safety, building, electrical and fire codes;...
 - c. will request that railroad companies and/or oil companies make public any development plans for increased rail traffic through Portland to accommodate oil transport and storage, and to provide adequate notice to Portland citizens of any plans for new or expanded rail facilities or any anticipated increases in rail traffic volume;...
 - d. will request that railroad and oil companies submit an emergency environmental cleanup plan in case of accidental spills or train derailment; and that they submit a bond to pay for any and all spills, explosions, etc....

Thank you-
Nikki Mandell
District 3

Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
4 Nancy Hiser, Linnton NA, Tank the Tanks	Support	I strongly support the Green-Morillo resolution and object that the LUCS was approved before this council measure was given the attention it was due. Moving forward, this resolution is critically important to add to the public record and to investigate Zenith's potential violations of the required franchise agreement. Most importantly, the competing statements by City administration to the dozens of public advocates' testimony on 1.21.25 must be investigated as it suggests some deeper problems of lack of transparency and presences of bias. The change of form of government was supported by the majority of Portlanders and this is not demonstrated by some in city administration. Dealing with this now will enable the City to move forward with increased public trust--so important to making progress on all city issues. Thank you for this opportunity, Nancy Hiser	No	03/10/25 9:59 AM
5 Dineen Crowe, 350PDX, on behalf of 21 other community groups	Support	Letter from 22 Community Groups in support of Resolution 2025-070	Yes	03/10/25 10:14 AM
6 annie capestany	Support	The city has acted in questionable ways and those actions should be investigated. There should always be transparency and accountability in the city's dealings, especially in an issue that is so fraught.	No	03/10/25 8:41 PM
7 Corey Buttry	Support	<p>I am writing to express my strong support for this resolution, which seeks to hold Zenith Energy accountable for its violations and ensure transparency in the City's decision-making processes. Portlanders deserve a government that prioritizes environmental protection, public trust, and corporate accountability—values that have been repeatedly undermined by Zenith's actions.</p> <p>The evidence presented in this resolution, including findings from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and investigative reports, demonstrates a troubling pattern of misrepresentation, regulatory noncompliance, and lack of transparency from Zenith. The fact that Zenith modified its facility and operated without proper authorization from DEQ for over three years—directly contradicting the City's land use policies—raises serious concerns about the company's trustworthiness and willingness to abide by local and state regulations.</p> <p>Equally concerning is the evidence that City processes in 2022 were highly irregular, potentially prejudicial to the public, and lacked appropriate oversight. Portlanders voted to change the City's form of government to improve transparency and accountability, and this resolution is a critical step toward upholding that promise. The public has the right to know the full extent of Zenith's lobbying efforts, the inconsistencies in the City's review process, and any improper communications that may have influenced land use approvals.</p> <p>I urge the Council to approve this resolution and take the following actions without delay:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully investigate Zenith's potential violations of its franchise agreement and determine whether termination is warranted. Require full public disclosure of all communications between Zenith and City officials. Conduct an independent review of the 2022 Land Use Compatibility Statement (LUCS) process to restore public trust. Pause all administrative actions related to Zenith until these investigations are complete. <p>Portland has committed to bold climate action and environmental justice. Allowing Zenith to continue operating without full accountability would contradict the City's stated commitments and set a dangerous precedent. I ask you to stand with the community, prioritize public health and safety, and ensure that corporations operating in Portland are held to the highest standards of honesty and compliance.</p> <p>Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue.</p> <p>Sincerely, Corey J Buttry Creston-Kenilworth neighborhood</p>	No	03/13/25 12:51 PM
8 Anonymous	Support with changes	City should review and terminate Zenith franchise agreement due to negative environmental impacts	No	03/16/25 8:36 AM

Date: March 6, 2025

Subject: Letter of Support from 22 Community Groups for Resolution No. 2025-070 – Accountability for Zenith Energy LUCS Process and the Behavior of High-Level City Staff

Dear Members of the Portland City Council and Mayor Wilson,

We write to express our strong support for [Resolution No. 2025-070](#), which seeks to address systemic failures in the City's handling of Zenith Energy's Land Use Compatibility Statement (LUCS) applications and to hold high-level staff and City Administrators accountable for misleading statements and procedural violations. The resolution's directives align with the urgent need to restore public trust, ensure compliance with legal standards, and prioritize transparency in decisions impacting Portland's environmental and community health.

As recognized by the WHEREAS section of the Resolution, the behavior of elected officials and high-level city staff since Summer 2022 has created an enormous amount of distrust of city government in the community. We had hoped that the new form of government would be enough to remedy these issues, but it is clear from the January 21, 2025 Work Session and the City's rushing of Zenith's 2024 LUCS decision that further accountability measures are necessary to restore transparency and public confidence in local government.

After the January 21, 2025 work session, advocates [fact-checked](#) the presentation from staff and found misleading statements, outright falsehoods, and omissions, including:

1. **Misrepresentation of the LUCS Process:** Staff, including Deputy City Administrator Oliveira, repeatedly characterized the 2022 LUCS as a "standard administrative process," despite clear evidence of political influence, backroom negotiations, and the inclusion of unprecedented conditions. While objecting to the characterization of City behavior as a "back room deal" he described behavior consistent with what journalists and advocates have described as back room dealing. Furthermore, he sought to explain the behavior by asserting that Zenith's conditions were informed by advocates, apparently trying to suggest that the public's desires had been represented in the back room negotiations. Not only was this statement untrue, but it was insulting to advocates who have spent over two years documenting exactly how the City shut advocates and the public out of the decision.
2. **Omission of Critical Information:** Staff failed to disclose Zenith's history of noncompliance, including unpermitted construction of pipelines and illegal modifications cited by DEQ in November 2024. These omissions deprived the Council and public of

material facts necessary to contextualize the uniqueness of Zenith’s sordid history in Portland and the company’s distinctness when compared to other LUCS applicants. Without this information, it is difficult for Councilors to understand why Zenith must be treated differently than other LUCS applications. We believe that these facts were intentionally omitted so that high-level staff could present Zenith as an ordinary and uncontroversial applicant, instead of a company with a long history of legal violations, dishonesty, and general disregard for safety.

3. **Discrepancies in Documentation:** Oliveira falsely claimed Zenith submitted its 2024 LUCS application on December 17, 2024, while public records prove it was received on December 11. Such inconsistencies, alongside Oliveira’s admission that the 2022 process was “distinct” and “outside the norm,” demonstrate a pattern of dishonesty. Given Oliveira’s other misrepresentations, he does not deserve the benefit of the doubt in assuming simple error. There is a clear pattern of misrepresentation and omission that needs further investigation.
4. **Exclusion of Public Scrutiny:** Environmental advocates like Columbia Riverkeeper were intentionally excluded from knowledge of and participation in the 2022 LUCS process, even as they intervened in legal proceedings on behalf of the City over the 2021 LUCS denial. This secrecy allowed the City to adopt Zenith’s self-serving findings without independent verification.
5. **Biased Decision Making:** The findings in the 2022 LUCS are not credible because they were based on a flawed process and generally simply reproduce Zenith’s supplied findings. The continued exclusion of the public in the 2024 LUCS approval—and the City simply accepting Zenith’s conditions as is—means that Zenith’s claims and conditions have never been adequately scrutinized, exposing Portlanders and their environment to unreasonable risks. The public cannot have confidence in the 2024 LUCS decision when it was heavily influenced and decided by the same City Administrators and high-level staff who were involved in the back room deal in 2022 and who offered misleading statements, outright falsehoods, and omissions to the City Council.

Why Accountability Matters:

- **Trust in Governance:** Portlanders voted for a new form of government to prioritize transparency. When high-level staff mislead the Council and public, they undermine this mandate and erode confidence in municipal institutions.
- **Environmental and Public Safety:** Zenith’s operations pose significant risks, including seismic vulnerabilities and unchecked fossil fuel expansion masked as “renewable” fuels. City Administrator and High level staff’s failure to adequately scrutinize Zenith’s operations jeopardizes Portland’s climate goals and safety.

- **Legal and Ethical Obligations:** City Code Chapter 2.12 and the Code of Ethics require staff to avoid even the *appearance* of impropriety. The Auditor’s findings of “abnormal” processes and undisclosed lobbying demand corrective action.
- **Precedent for Future Decisions:** Without accountability, similar backroom deals and procedural shortcuts could recur, privileging corporate interests over community well-being.

We urge the Council to adopt Resolution No. 2025-070 in full. Its directives—including independent investigations, disclosure of *ex parte* communications, and a pause on Zenith’s permits—are critical to rectifying past harms and ensuring future land use decisions adhere to the law. Portland must demonstrate that misleading statements, exclusion of the public, and disregard for environmental safeguards will not be tolerated.

Thank you for your commitment to accountability and transparency. We stand ready to support these efforts in any way possible.

Signed,

Dineen Crowe, Campaign Manager, 350 PDX

Nick Caleb, Climate and Energy Attorney, Breach Collective

Cassie Cohen (Executive Director), Candace Jiminez (Board Chair), and Ja’Marian Malley (Campaign Director), Portland Harbor Community Coalition

Jan Zuckerman, Braided River Campaign

Meg Ward, President, Communication Workers of America Local 7901

Willie Levenson, Founder and Ringleader, Human Access Project

Diana Miesenthaler, Extinction Rebellion PDX

Sarah Baker, Making Earth Cool

Samantha Hernandez, Healthy Climate Program Director, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

Catherine Bax and Ann Turner, St. Andrew Catholic Church Ecojustice Team

Damon Motz-Storey, Oregon Chapter Director, Sierra Club

Michael Pouncil, Board Chair, Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group

Robin Gottlieb, Bernie PDX

Jacob Apenes, Sunrise Movement PDX

Dave King, Climate Jobs PDX

Joana Kirchhoff, Portland Raging Grannies

Laura Iwanaga, Third Act Oregon

Mike Horner, PEST

Nancy Hiser, Tank the Tanks

Ralph Brooks, Forest Park (South) Firewise Neighborhood Leadership

Cathryn Chudy, Oregon Conservancy Foundation

Sarah Kowaleski, Portland Jobs with Justice

	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
9	Anonymous	Support	Hold Zenith accountable, block them from future harm.	No	03/17/25 9:52 AM
10	John Giacoppe	Support		Yes	03/17/25 11:53 AM
11	Mark Baugher	Support	<p>Since acquiring the Portland facility in 2017, I have read (https://www.columbiariverkeeper.org/2024/zenith-energys-legacy-of-violations-and-lies/) that Zenith has accumulated approximately 20 violations from the Oregon DEQ. These infractions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Handling hazardous tar sands oil without notifying regulators or the public. •Constructing additional rail car off-loading stations under the pretense of no increased throughput, followed by significant throughput increases. •Storing volatile liquid products in fixed-roof storage tanks instead of using floating-roof tanks designed for better pollution control. •Failing to conduct proper spill drills and neglecting timely submissions of required reports and notifications to the DEQ. <p>That's on Zenith. How can we trust anything they say? But it is on us, our city and our state governments to ensure that our energy storage facility on the Willamette River is not going to be a 'Fukushima' in the event of a major earthquake, https://www.hcn.org/issues/56-9/preventing-the-next-fukushima/ or any other natural disaster or accident that makes our reliance on fossil fuels and burning oils much more risky and polluting than it has to be.</p> <p>Given the risks and the record of Zenith, I am curious to know why the storage of toxic materials on the river and Zenith's contempt for our laws have been tolerated for so long.</p>	No	03/17/25 12:32 PM
12	James Belcher	Support		No	03/17/25 1:52 PM
13	Anonymous	Support	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Benjamin Platt, I'm a D3 resident in inner SE Portland, and I strongly support this effort to evaluate the City's history and future with Zenith Energy, an out of state fuel company whose presence poses incredible health risks to our community.</p> <p>The seismic risks of their tanks are well documented, the real risk of train car derailment is an everyday threat, and they have a history of, in the most generous terms, noncompliance with regulatory bodies.</p> <p>Not only are they not a trustworthy partner with the city (see their most recent illegal facility expansion), but as the recent committee meeting of the Climate, Land Use, and Resiliency committee on renewable fuels really thoroughl illustrated, their "renewable fuels hub" promises have very little benefit behind them with no mitigation of risk - it's a marketing campaign to not only keep them in business, but expand their operations.</p> <p>I strongly support the City's proposal to get this relationship under control - Zenith undermines our democratic, transparent state processes, defies regulation, and endanger us all for the sake of money in a Houston company's pocket.</p>	No	03/17/25 7:13 PM
14	Anonymous	Support	I support the council resolution to investigate violations of the Zenith franchise agreement and inquire about the city's involvement in communications with Zenith that led to the LUCS approval. The people of Portland should be able to trust in their new government and transparency is the only way forward with this issue. Zenith has a reputation for violating their land use agreement and should be held to the highest level of scrutiny, especially when the health and safety of Portlanders depends on it.	No	03/17/25 7:29 PM

Dear Councilors,

The city of Portland has, for too long, been more adept at finding excuses than solutions to its climate problems. Citizens have made it abundantly clear over the last ten years that they want to see the city take decisive action to prepare for climate change's worst impacts and transition away from the fossil fuels that are driving the crisis. We have seen major victories, but Zenith Energy's continued operation and expansion, despite years of flagrant violation of the law, looms large over all of Portland's efforts to meet the crisis.

Zenith Energy, a Houston-based energy company, has shown a willingness to mislead and obfuscate since their arrival just under 10 years ago. Despite a pledge to reduce crude oil throughput, crude oil shipments have increased at the facility with each passing year. Despite initial claims that the company was not interested in water transport of fuel, Zenith Energy performed unpermitted renovation work on its docks to allow them to begin moving oil by water. And despite claims that they seek to serve the local community with essential fossil fuel infrastructure, their current long-term plan aims to refocus the facility around "sustainable aviation fuel" blending - with the lion's share of this fuel being exported to California. Companies with a track record for deceit should not be taken at their word, especially when the consequences of their deceit are a potential spill or fire of cataclysmic proportions. An investigation is necessary and the time is now.

While some may balk at the concept of investigating city staff communications as a part of this investigation, I would argue that the frustrating opacity of the permitting process over the last three years demands the action. Citizens have a right to know how their government works - and to have this process remain consistent until it is explicitly changed. If nothing else, this investigation can make clear what role city staff have taken up to this point in overseeing the LUCS application process, and allow Mayor Wilson's office and Council to better daylight and define this process for the public. Without such a staff investigation, we are likely to see the same back-and-forth confusion dominate the next controversial land use discussion. Let's save ourselves valuable time and clarify this point now, not later.

Under the dreadful auspice of an authoritarian presidency, it is time that this city make its own priorities clear to everyone – including its employees. Please pass Resolution 2025-070 as written, and launch a full investigation into Zenith's potential violations of its franchise agreement alongside a probe into city staff actions surrounding the latest LUCS approval. We are running out of time to prepare Portland for the future, and we have to start by stopping the bleed. Please don't let petty politics get in the way of this vital, and popular, action.

John Giacoppe
Co-Chair, Eco-Socialist Working Group of the Portland DSA
SE Portland Resident, Council District 3

	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
15	Anonymous	Support	I'm strongly in favor of Resolution No. 2025-070 because it's a solid step toward finding truth, transparency, and accountability. This is exemplary, good-faith effort from Councilor Green, Councilor Morillo, Councilor Dunphy, and Councilor VP Koyama-Lane. I urge the rest of council members and Mayor Wilson to follow suit and demonstrate to the public their seriousness to restore public confidence in city leadership. At the same time, city leaders have a duty to make sure their franchisees are following the rules, and this resolution is key to evaluating compliance and addressing community concerns.	No	03/17/25 7:35 PM
16	Ryder booth	Support	I'm a 19-year-old college student who lives in northwest Portland. Zenith Energy is a danger to Portland. They have knowingly broken the law and lied to regulators multiple times. Please pass this resolution and continue the process of holding them accountable.	No	03/17/25 8:12 PM
17	Keith Birchfield	Support	I strongly support this resolution and urge the Council to pass it. Zenith has demonstrated that they are not to be trusted. The public deserves to have a full investigation into this matter.	No	03/17/25 8:56 PM
18	Anonymous	Support	Dear City Councillors, I am a concerned community member reaching out to voice my support for resolution 2025-070. I live in Madison South neighborhood and live longside the tracks carrying oil by rail to the CEI hub, so I am directly-impacted by Zenith's fossil fuel operations. For this reason, I am especially concerned that our city management holds Zenith accountable to the agreements and safety rules signed in the view of the public. Zenith has demonstrated again and again that they cannot be trusted with the safety of our waterways and neighborhoods in the absence of significant and trustworthy public oversight. Resolution 2025-070 will secure that accountability and should be an obvious yes vote for those entrusted with our city's governance. Please, do the right thing: vote yes on Resolution 2025-070. Mathias Quackenbush Madison South Neighborhood.	No	03/17/25 8:58 PM
19	Carl Schubert	Support	I am writing to express my support for Resolution 2025-070. As a relatively new resident of Portland, I am deeply concerned by Zenith's lack of transparency regarding its activities and environmental impact. Portland, a city renowned for its rich biodiversity and commitment to sustainability, should not be actively enabling Zenith to continue operations without greater scrutiny. Their history of misleading the public, engaging in backroom negotiations, and employing questionable tactics underscores the urgent need for accountability and full transparency to prevent further misleadings, backroom negotiations, and questionable tactics, and to stop them from greenwashing their way into being a key player in Portland's policymaking. I urge you to stand with the people, rivers, land, and other natural beings that call Portland home.	No	03/17/25 9:52 PM
20	Esmeralda Botello	Support with changes	Zenith needs to be held accountable. The Texas-based fossil fuel company's dangerous operations of fossil fuel and "renewable fuel" storage and transloading endangers Portland residences, environment and tribal treaty resources. We are in an earthquake zone and the risks Zenith's operations pose are unreasonable and negligent to every person and creature calling Portland home. Please refuse to fast track new land use permissions for Zenith and withdraw Zenith's existing LUCSs and land use permissions. Our local government needs to hold corrupt officials and corporations accountable! Be the City Councilors who stand on the right side of history and protect the lands and waterways that make our great city a haven and wonder for all.	No	03/18/25 8:53 AM
21	Faith Fry	Support	I'm 22, living and attending school in Portland and I'm writing this out of concern for the city's lack of transparency and Zenith's lack of concern for the public's health.	No	03/18/25 9:26 AM
22	Cory Gerety	Support		No	03/18/25 9:51 AM

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Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
Evelyn Whitlock, Sierra Club, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility	Support	<p>Dear City Council members,</p> <p>I am in District 4 and strongly in support of this resolution introduced by Mitch Green, one of our District 4 representatives, among others.</p> <p>I am a retired public health physician working to reduce health hazards and environmental risks associated with the CEI hub. As I have learned over the last few years, Zenith has a long history of committing violations endangering the health and safety of Portland residents, accumulating over twenty violations from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ).</p> <p>It is time to send the message that the City will stand by its environmental commitments, and commitments to serve the community by its willingness to hold entities such as Zenith accountable for their actions.</p> <p>Zenith illegally lobbied Portland City officials to obtain their Land Use Compatibility Statement (LUCS). Just last March, the city auditor found that Zenith violated city code by not reporting their lobbying activities. More egregious is that Zenith illegally expanded its fossil fuel operations by hooking up to the McCall Oil dock. This illegal use went undetected by the City and ODEQ for over two and a half years!</p> <p>This history of regulatory noncompliance and lack of transparency must be investigated. I urge the Council to approve this resolution.</p> <p>Sincerely, Evelyn P. Whitlock, M.D., M.P.H. (retired)</p>	No	03/18/25 11:25 AM
Erik Ace	Support	<p>Dear City Councillors,</p> <p>I am a citizen living in District 4 and I am writing this testimony to lend my strong support in favor of resolution 2025-070. I am a new father who came to Portland many years ago to build a home and community with my family. I believe the tragedy that happened in East Palestine, Ohio two years ago where a train derailed with toxic chemicals that continue to harm that community to this day should serve as a warning to all of us. We must act now to ensure that Zenith's fossil fuel operations cannot negatively impact the city of Portland while we still have the opportunity.</p> <p>For this reason and the concerns I have for our community members who live closer to the CEI hub, I believe it should be a high priority that our city hold Zenith accountable to any agreements and rules that are required of the company. Zenith has shown they are not acting in good faith with the public and we must ensure that we have oversight over their operations for the safety and betterment of all in the Portland community.</p> <p>Resolution 2025-070 will ensure that accountability will take place and for these reasons, I urge you all to vote yes on Resolution 2025-070.</p>	No	03/18/25 12:50 PM
Jessi Presley-Grusin	Support	<p>I fully support this agenda item because Zenith has failed to operate with transparency and is clearly taking advantage of our city. They must be held accountable for their actions and a plan needs to be made regarding how to prevent their bad behavior, and similar abuses by other companies, in the future.</p>	No	03/18/25 3:05 PM

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Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
26 Susan Palmiter	Support	<p>Dear City Council members, especially my representatives from District 4.</p> <p>Thank you for considering this resolution. I am in strong support of its passage.</p> <p>Accountability is key to a well functioning city. Portlanders voted for a new form of government to prioritize transparency and we need to be able to trust our officials. When high-level staff mislead the Council and public, they undermine this mandate and erode confidence in municipal institutions.</p> <p>The continued exclusion of the public in the 2024 LUCS approval—and the City simply accepting Zenith's conditions as is—means that Zenith's claims and conditions have never been adequately scrutinized, exposing Portlanders and their environment to unreasonable risks.</p> <p>Every time I drive by the CEI and see the Zenith trains I feel a pit in my stomach. They trains are dangerous, the way they are using the land near the Willamette is unsafe, and they are reminder that money talks - and not the well being of the citizens.</p> <p>Zenith should not be here. The City Staff should not have allowed this to continue. The LUCS needs to be revoked. This resolution must be passed.</p> <p>Thank you for to Councilor Green, from my district, and to all of you for your service and your attention to this matter.</p> <p>Susan Palmiter</p>	No	03/18/25 3:18 PM
27 Jean Miller	Support	Given Zenith's continual flouting of safety regulations, I oppose their operating at all in Multnomah county.	No	03/18/25 3:21 PM
28 Jen	Support	We demand transparency for all corporate activities in Portland, and be an example to other cities. Corporate interests must not take precedence over environmental sustainability or the people of Portland, and all who surround us. We do not want corporate interests involved in politics, all those parties should be investigated and held accountable. Elected officials work for us, not corporate America. Set an example, be the example. Hold all participatory officials accountable. Transparency is the pillar of trust, if you violate that, you violate our rights as citizens. We choose people and and environmental sustainability over profit and corrupt politicians.	No	03/18/25 4:11 PM
29 Jeremy Beausoleil Smith	Support	<p>On March 26, 2024 the City Auditor released a statement that Zenith Energy violated lobbying regulations in 2022. In 2021 the City Council at the time denied Zenith a permit to continue its operations as it was at odds with our city's climate goals. In 2022 Zenith re-applied for the permit and this time was approved . The auditor's report from March 26, 2024 shows that between these two applications Zenith facilitated a site tour and engaged in several meetings with city officials to gain good will and advance approval of its permit. It did not register or report those hours. Zenith has proven that they feel the rules don't apply to them.</p> <p>The risks Zenith's operations pose to our community far eclipse any benefit Zenith brings to our local economy. They are not good stewards of our land. They pollute our water, diminish our air quality, and pose a massive threat to our lives during the next seismic event. Their existence at the Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub is a danger to every Portlander.</p> <p>I wholeheartedly support this resolution. We must bring Zenith's shady operations into the light.</p>	No	03/18/25 4:12 PM
30 Zach Greenvoss	Support	Given the city's stated commitment in June 2020 to the ongoing Climate Emergency, it is unconscionable to allow Zenith to continue to operate in this city, especially considering the ongoing safety hazards their operation represents. As a 20 year resident of Portland, I strongly support this resolution.	No	03/18/25 4:38 PM

Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
31 Ann Turner, Co-President of Oregon Physicians for Social of Responsibility	Support	<p>I am writing to express my strong support for this resolution. Zenith has a long history of committing violations endangering the health and safety of Portland residents, accumulating over twenty violations from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ). It is time to hold Zenith accountable.</p> <p>Zenith illegally lobbied Portland City officials to obtain their Land Use Compatibility Statement (LUCS). Just last March, the city auditor found that Zenith violated city code by not reporting their lobbying activities. More egregious is that Zenith illegally expanded its fossil fuel operations by hooking up to the McCall Oil dock. This illegal use went undetected by the City and ODEQ for over two and a half years!</p> <p>This history of regulatory noncompliance and lack of transparency must be investigated. I urge the Council to approve this resolution. The residents of Portland must have full transparency of the events that occurred with between the City and Zenith.</p>	No	03/18/25 4:42 PM
32 Anna Belew	Support	<p>The health and safety of Portlanders is gravely endangered by Zenith's reckless disregard of the agreements it has made with the city. Transparency and accountability are an absolute must to protect everyone in the city - I strongly support this proposal.</p>	No	03/18/25 4:52 PM
33 Linda Wysong, Kenton Neighborhood, N. Portland	Support	<p>Dear Members of the Portland City Council and Mayor Wilson,</p> <p>I write as a long time resident of Portland and a member of the Kenton Neighborhood Association and its Environmental Committee to express my strong support for Resolution No. 2025-070, which seeks to address systemic failures in the City's handling of Zenith Energy's Land Use Compatibility Statement (LUCS) applications and to hold high-level staff and City Administrators accountable for misleading statements and procedural violations.</p> <p>This resolution will help restore public trust, move to a more open and transparent city government and ensure a safer and healthier community. The discussion around Zenith is not a cut and dry administrative decision but an urgent concern that impacts the future of Portland, the Willamette river and the region. After the January 21, 2025 work session, advocates fact checked the presentation from staff and found misleading statements, outright falsehoods, and omissions, including: Misrepresentation of the LUCS Process, Omission of Critical Information, Discrepancies in Documentation: Exclusion of Public Scrutiny and Biased Decision Making. This is your opportunity to break with the past system and show that our new form of government is open and responsive to its citizens.</p> <p>Please support Resolution No. 2025-070!</p>	No	03/18/25 6:04 PM
34 Alice Shapiro	Support	<p>I strongly urge the council to adopt Resolution No, 2025-070 in full. We need independent investigators, disclosure of any "ex parte" communications and a halt to Zenith's permits until this company, with a history of violations, is made to comply to the law. Many of us worked for and supported our new form of city government because we were convinced that the public would have more transparency and involvement in future decisions. The health of our community is jeopardized by the actions and violations committed by Zenith. Please restore public trust, show concern and protection of public safety and cement our confidence in our new form of city government.</p>	No	03/18/25 6:08 PM

Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
35 Jan Zuckerman	Support	<p>Dear City Councilors, Thank you for the commitment and dedication you have shown during this very busy and challenging time of transition. Not only are you sharpening your skill set, but you are trying to understand how to right past wrongs in a fair and equitable way that lifts the voices of community members. This is no easy task.</p> <p>The Zenith Resolution is one of these concrete ways to right past wrongs. At Monday's presentation on the CEI Hub, Councilor Zimmerman pushed back on the need for more public involvement because it is clear we have a problem and it's time to hear from experts in the field about solutions. For years, Portlanders have petitioned, testified, marched, written letters and postcards, planned forums, met with City Council and the Mayor and have participated in non- violent direct action to call out the violations on the part of Zenith Energy and its role in its increasing harm to our human and non-human communities.</p> <p>The public has shared. The media has reported. Now it is time to move forward and act to address not only the lack of transparency and questionable behavior regarding city staff in its dealings with Zenith, but to address the inconsistencies and violations regarding Zenith Energy's franchise agreement with the city.</p> <p>I encourage you to unanimously vote to pass Resolution No. 2025-070 in full and put a pause on all Zenith Energy permits until an independent investigation is completed.</p> <p>Thank you, Jan Zuckerman</p>	No	03/18/25 6:24 PM
36 Dineen Crowe, 350PDX, on behalf of 22 other community groups	Support	<p>Please see attached letter for full testimony, from the following 23 organizations who are all in support of Resolution No. 2025-070 -</p> <p>Dineen Crowe, Campaign Manager, 350 PDX Nick Caleb, Climate and Energy Attorney, Breach Collective Cassie Cohen (Executive Director), Candace Jiminez (Board Chair), and Ja'Marian Malley (Campaign Director), Portland Harbor Community Coalition Jan Zuckerman, Braided River Campaign Meg Ward, President, Communication Workers of America Local 7901 Willie Levenson, Founder and Ringleader, Human Access Project Diana Miesenhalter, Extinction Rebellion PDX Sarah Baker, Making Earth Cool Samantha Hernandez, Healthy Climate Program Director, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility Catherine Bax and Ann Turner, St. Andrew Catholic Church Ecojustice Team Damon Motz-Storey, Oregon Chapter Director, Sierra Club Michael Pouncil, Board Chair, Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group Robin Gottlieb, Bernie PDX Jacob Apenes, Sunrise Movement PDX Dave King, Climate Jobs PDX Joana Kircho, Portland Raging Grannies Laura Iwanaga, Third Act Oregon Mike Horner, PEST Nancy Hiser, Tank the Tanks Ralph Brooks, Forest Park (South) Firewise Neighborhood Leadership Cathryn Chudy, Oregon Conservancy Foundation Sarah Kowaleski, Portland Jobs with Justice Jewish Voice for Peace PDX</p>	Yes	03/18/25 6:35 PM

Date: March 18, 2025

Subject: Letter of Support from 23 Community Groups for Resolution No. 2025-070 – Accountability for Zenith Energy LUCS Process and the Behavior of High-Level City Staff

Dear Members of the Portland City Council and Mayor Wilson,

We write to express our strong support for [Resolution No. 2025-070](#), which seeks to address systemic failures in the City's handling of Zenith Energy's Land Use Compatibility Statement (LUCS) applications and to hold high-level staff and City Administrators accountable for misleading statements and procedural violations. The resolution's directives align with the urgent need to restore public trust, ensure compliance with legal standards, and prioritize transparency in decisions impacting Portland's environmental and community health.

As recognized by the WHEREAS section of the Resolution, the behavior of elected officials and high-level city staff since Summer 2022 has created an enormous amount of distrust of city government in the community. We had hoped that the new form of government would be enough to remedy these issues, but it is clear from the January 21, 2025 Work Session and the City's rushing of Zenith's 2024 LUCS decision that further accountability measures are necessary to restore transparency and public confidence in local government.

After the January 21, 2025 work session, advocates [fact-checked](#) the presentation from staff and found misleading statements, outright falsehoods, and omissions, including:

1. **Misrepresentation of the LUCS Process:** Staff, including Deputy City Administrator Oliveira, repeatedly characterized the 2022 LUCS as a "standard administrative process," despite clear evidence of political influence, backroom negotiations, and the inclusion of unprecedented conditions. While objecting to the characterization of City behavior as a "back room deal" he described behavior consistent with what journalists and advocates have described as back room dealing. Furthermore, he sought to explain the behavior by asserting that Zenith's conditions were informed by advocates, apparently trying to suggest that the public's desires had been represented in the back room negotiations. Not only was this statement untrue, but it was insulting to advocates who have spent over two years documenting exactly how the City shut advocates and the public out of the decision.
2. **Omission of Critical Information:** Staff failed to disclose Zenith's history of noncompliance, including unpermitted construction of pipelines and illegal modifications cited by DEQ in November 2024. These omissions deprived the Council and public of

material facts necessary to contextualize the uniqueness of Zenith’s sordid history in Portland and the company’s distinctness when compared to other LUCS applicants. Without this information, it is difficult for Councilors to understand why Zenith must be treated differently than other LUCS applications. We believe that these facts were intentionally omitted so that high-level staff could present Zenith as an ordinary and uncontroversial applicant, instead of a company with a long history of legal violations, dishonesty, and general disregard for safety.

3. **Discrepancies in Documentation:** Oliveira falsely claimed Zenith submitted its 2024 LUCS application on December 17, 2024, while public records prove it was received on December 11. Such inconsistencies, alongside Oliveira’s admission that the 2022 process was “distinct” and “outside the norm,” demonstrate a pattern of dishonesty. Given Oliveira’s other misrepresentations, he does not deserve the benefit of the doubt in assuming simple error. There is a clear pattern of misrepresentation and omission that needs further investigation.
4. **Exclusion of Public Scrutiny:** Environmental advocates like Columbia Riverkeeper were intentionally excluded from knowledge of and participation in the 2022 LUCS process, even as they intervened in legal proceedings on behalf of the City over the 2021 LUCS denial. This secrecy allowed the City to adopt Zenith’s self-serving findings without independent verification.
5. **Biased Decision Making:** The findings in the 2022 LUCS are not credible because they were based on a flawed process and generally simply reproduce Zenith’s supplied findings. The continued exclusion of the public in the 2024 LUCS approval—and the City simply accepting Zenith’s conditions as is—means that Zenith’s claims and conditions have never been adequately scrutinized, exposing Portlanders and their environment to unreasonable risks. The public cannot have confidence in the 2024 LUCS decision when it was heavily influenced and decided by the same City Administrators and high-level staff who were involved in the back room deal in 2022 and who offered misleading statements, outright falsehoods, and omissions to the City Council.

Why Accountability Matters:

- **Trust in Governance:** Portlanders voted for a new form of government to prioritize transparency. When high-level staff mislead the Council and public, they undermine this mandate and erode confidence in municipal institutions.
- **Environmental and Public Safety:** Zenith’s operations pose significant risks, including seismic vulnerabilities and unchecked fossil fuel expansion masked as “renewable” fuels. City Administrator and High level staff’s failure to adequately scrutinize Zenith’s operations jeopardizes Portland’s climate goals and safety.

- **Legal and Ethical Obligations:** City Code Chapter 2.12 and the Code of Ethics require staff to avoid even the *appearance* of impropriety. The Auditor’s findings of “abnormal” processes and undisclosed lobbying demand corrective action.
- **Precedent for Future Decisions:** Without accountability, similar backroom deals and procedural shortcuts could recur, privileging corporate interests over community well-being.

We urge the Council to adopt Resolution No. 2025-070 in full. Its directives—including independent investigations, disclosure of *ex parte* communications, and a pause on Zenith’s permits—are critical to rectifying past harms and ensuring future land use decisions adhere to the law. Portland must demonstrate that misleading statements, exclusion of the public, and disregard for environmental safeguards will not be tolerated.

Thank you for your commitment to accountability and transparency. We stand ready to support these efforts in any way possible.

Signed,

Dineen Crowe, Campaign Manager, 350 PDX

Nick Caleb, Climate and Energy Attorney, Breach Collective

Cassie Cohen (Executive Director), Candace Jiminez (Board Chair), and Ja’Marian Malley (Campaign Director), Portland Harbor Community Coalition

Jan Zuckerman, Braided River Campaign

Meg Ward, President, Communication Workers of America Local 7901

Willie Levenson, Founder and Ringleader, Human Access Project

Diana Miesenhalter, Extinction Rebellion PDX

Sarah Baker, Making Earth Cool

Samantha Hernandez, Healthy Climate Program Director, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

Catherine Bax and Ann Turner, St. Andrew Catholic Church Ecojustice Team

Damon Motz-Storey, Oregon Chapter Director, Sierra Club

Michael Pouncil, Board Chair, Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group

Robin Gottlieb, Bernie PDX

Jacob Apenes, Sunrise Movement PDX

Dave King, Climate Jobs PDX

Joana Kirchhoff, Portland Raging Grannies

Laura Iwanaga, Third Act Oregon

Mike Horner, PEST

Nancy Hiser, Tank the Tanks

Ralph Brooks, Forest Park (South) Firewise Neighborhood Leadership

Cathryn Chudy, Oregon Conservancy Foundation

Sarah Kowaleski, Portland Jobs with Justice

Jewish Voice for Peace PDX

Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
37 Anonymous	Support	<p>Dear City Councilors and Mayor Wilson,</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. My name is Richard Alexander and I am a District 3 resident. I strongly support resolution No. 2025-070. This resolution reflects a number of councilors' good faith and their commitment to find truth through investigating the contested facts surrounding Zenith's operation and permits, while increasing transparency, and restoring public confidence in city leaders and high-level officials. I urge the rest of the city council members and Mayor Wilson to pass this resolution and promptly implement all its directives.</p> <p>I support the resolution because it will allow the new leadership to shed light on any misdealing and perceived lack of transparency the previous leadership had with Zenith and their LUCS process. Also, through this process, it will bring all interested parties together on the same page in order to make the best decisions for the public at large.</p> <p>Financially, the city does not appear to benefit from Zenith much at all in the short term. As for the long term, the city does not appear to be looking out for its future generations, financially or environmentally.</p> <p>This resolution has the opportunity to bring all impacted parties together to review the facts in a transparent manner.</p> <p>For these reasons, among others, I strongly support resolution No. 2025-070.</p>	No	03/18/25 7:46 PM
38 Anonymous	Support	<p>Dear Mayor Wilson and Portland City Council,</p> <p>I live 2 houses from Cathedral Park and the St Johns Bridge. We often smell the toxic fumes of oil in our yard and on our porch.. For that reason and fear of the consequences of the "Big One" earthquake, I support the resolution number 2025-070 which would get the appearance of corruption of city staff out in the open where it can be corrected. The resolution is focused on Zenith Energy Corp. but I believe that the other oil companies operating in the CEIHub have been similarly treated by city staff. This resolution would go a long way toward correcting the betrayal of trust that facilitates the existing pollution and careless attitude toward making these businesses care for the health and safety of the people of Portland.</p> <p>Sincerely, Dave King</p>	No	03/18/25 9:16 PM
39 Anonymous	Support		No	03/18/25 9:21 PM
40 Anonymous	Support	<p>I am a climate activist from SE Portland. I am also a Neighborhood Emergency team member. I really worry about the CEI hub and the dangerous chemicals and fuels that could be unleashed into the Willamette and our air, thanks to Zenith and other companies. I know the city has a climate emergency plan, but i don't see any effort to improve the situation in our city. Instead i see collusion with big business, even though it is big business that helped get us into this mess. We can't expect the people to solve the climate crisis by recycling or riding the bus, cuz we didn't cause the problem. But our city "leaders" are not making the tough decisions that are the best for everyone. They are making backroom deals with industry and ignoring the will of the people. Where is the accountability? Where is the transparency? In addition to making the climate emergency worse, city officials are also destroying public trust in the government. In fact, I have very little trust that our local government cares about the average person. I question if city officials are acting in legal or moral ways. But to know for sure, we need to investigate the situation. That is why we need the Morillo Green resolution. Please approve it in full. Improve our government, improve our chances of surviving climate change and earthquakes.</p>	No	03/18/25 9:27 PM
41 Anonymous	Support	We deserve transparency and accountability from Zenith and our city.	No	03/18/25 9:54 PM
42 Brice Suprenant	Support	I support this resolution as we must stop the expansion of big oil for the sake of all our futures.	No	03/18/25 11:13 PM
43 Jay Marcy	Support	I cannot appear in person to show my support, so I am showing it here instead.	No	03/19/25 7:00 AM

	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
44	Anonymous	Support	This is so important to the community and the future of Portland. While our climate and environment continue to be destroyed on a national level by big oil corporations and the Trump admin, we must do everything in our power to prevent the same destruction--and to prevent corrupt processes--here at home.	No	03/19/25 7:41 AM
45	Anonymous	Support	As a resident of the "blast zone" which would be impacted by a potential explosive derailment of oil trains or catastrophic oil spill caused by the overdue Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake anticipated in our region, I support the Councilors' calls for investigation of the Zenith Energy franchise agreement. I am opposed to further permit approval for Zenith operations until additional investigation, environmental impact research, and community input can be gathered. Thank you.	No	03/19/25 7:44 AM
46	Frankie Ford Oades	Support	Zenith has avoided transparency and accountability in our city for too long. This is a huge step in protecting our community. Moving forward with this is a sign that City Council is finally ready to put Portlanders safety and well-being above the profit of large corporations.	No	03/19/25 8:30 AM
47	Whittney Nava	Support	I live above The Cut, with my backyard bordering the Peninsula Crossing Trail. It is unacceptable and insulting that the City allows Zenith to store oil tankers on the tracks so close to residential areas. An accident or natural disaster could wipe our neighborhood off of the map. Why has the City deemed the lives of Portsmouth residents as disposable? We all know that this would never be allowed in wealthier Districts. North Portland is always the first to receive cuts and the last to receive investment. The City has an obligation to show its tax paying, North Portland residents that it cares about their health and safety by swiftly addressing the dangerous ways Zenith stores materials.	No	03/19/25 8:58 AM
48	Anonymous	Support	We must prioritize the people of Portland rather than money so we can all thrive!	No	03/19/25 9:04 AM
49	Katerina Mery	Support	<p>I'm writing to express my support for an investigation into franchise violations by Zenith Energy Holdings LLC, as well as an investigation into the lack of due diligence on the part of city officials in holding Zenith accountable—which includes misleading and false statements as well as serious omissions of fact.</p> <p>For context, I moved to St. Johns last summer after my partner and I purchased our first home here. I love the beautiful scenery, friendly neighbors, and many charming businesses, and could potentially see myself living here for a long time—however, I've been dismayed and concerned to learn about the shady operation Zenith has been running just across the river.</p> <p>There are others testifying today with more expertise than me, but it doesn't take much digging to realize that Zenith has a history of deception and disrespect for the processes that are supposed to keep us, the people of Portland, safe. Their failure to adequately comply with Oregon's Seismic Vulnerability Assessment makes the already scary possibility of an earthquake even scarier. The fact they did a "spill drill" with diesel rather than crude oil makes me seriously concerned about how they would handle a real emergency. The way they've continued to expand their operations while regularly failing to deliver required disclosures makes me wonder if, or why, they're exempt from following legal protocols. These are only a few examples—the list of discretions by Zenith goes on and on.</p> <p>Naturally, after learning about Zenith's historic and ongoing malpractices, my next step was to look into what my local government has done to handle the situation. I've been disappointed to find a lack of transparency and a pattern of misleading information from public officials. For example, in January, DCA Oliveira informed the council that Zenith is on track to shift away from crude oils by 2027, when in fact the Oregonian explicitly reported the opposite. I am especially concerned about the opaque process through which Zenith obtained a renewed LUCS, and am writing today to demand the Mayor investigate violations of the Zenith franchise agreement, and that the Auditor conduct an investigation into competing statements made by Oliveira at the January meeting. I urge the council to unanimously support these investigations, which will help restore trust in the city as a desperately needed environmental protector. Thank you for hearing my concerns.</p>	No	03/19/25 10:00 AM
50	Corinna Rutherford	Support	I am a NE Portland resident. My husband works along the River near where Zenith processes and holds oil. Zenith must be transparent with the community they operate within.	No	03/19/25 10:44 AM
51	Anonymous	Support	It is abhorrent that Zenith LUCs was approved unilaterally. I support this resolution.	No	03/19/25 11:17 AM

Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
52 Shari Bush	Support	I strongly support this resolution. Despite the fact that the LUCS is a permit that can technically be issued without public input or council oversight, we know that Zenith Energy Terminal Holdings has violated city regulations in the past and should be scrutinized closely. Since the Portland Auditor's Office concluded in 2022 that Zenith broke city lobbying rules, myself and many other Portlanders demand transparency in all dealings with Zenith. Please investigate Zenith fully, including; whether or not it violated its franchise agreement with the city, their conduct in communications with city employees (which should be made public), and the accuracy of their statements, along with city employees statements, to city council on Jan 21, 2025. Thank you for your time and consideration.	No	03/19/25 11:37 AM
53 Dylan Bandy	Support	I would like to see Portland investing in green energy solutions and divesting from fossil fuels. This is in line with scientific evidence of ecological disaster related to extracting fossil fuels.	No	03/19/25 11:42 AM
54 Anonymous	Support	I live in the blast zone of Zeniths oil trains. Zenith should not be allowed to endanger our community, and I am disgusted with the back door dealings the city continues to have with them. Revoke the LUCS!	No	03/19/25 11:53 AM
55 Marie Licudine	Support		No	03/19/25 11:58 AM
56 Nanao C	Support	I am genuinely concerned about the environmental impact of Zenith's operations in Portland.	No	03/19/25 12:25 PM
57 Claire Prichard	Support		No	03/19/25 12:31 PM
58 Louisa Moore	Support		No	03/19/25 12:34 PM
59 Sully Pujol	Support	Stop zenith oil!!!	No	03/19/25 12:40 PM
60 Rose City Indivisible	Support	We support all efforts to block Zenith from putting even more of our environment at risk.	No	03/19/25 12:49 PM
61 Cathy Spofford	Support	I am writing in support of this resolution. Zenith has a long history of lying about their operations, ignoring rules and regulations and trying to get things through back room deals. It is past time to investigate Zenith and the City's relationship with them.	No	03/19/25 12:58 PM
62 Tge city ckerk can contact me but don't make my email or name public	Support	Given that Zenith has repeatedly lied, violated contracts and laws, and the spirit of the law, and increases its endangerment of all Portlanders and people and ecosystems and economies along the oil bomb train and shipping routes, and the domino effect of the explosive toxic fires near the storage facility, and given the perceived corruption and betrayal of public and council trust by one city employee, we need oversight and multiple independent investigations and public information so the city council can protect the public and city resources and local economy via being informed by the public and facts. These facts have been denied us or ignored by a rogue employee acting against years of detailed overwhelming public testimony and facts. Voters chose more government accountability via the auditor, a larger more representative council, specific councilors promising to defend us from Zenith and other dishonest, corrupt, unlawful, reckless, useless and harmful companies. We need to have the facts denied us through secret back room deals and we need to hold Zenith and other corporations accountable. Zenith and the oil bomb trains and oil spill shipping and fire/explosion risks can totally destroy Portland's economy, much of its infrastructure, and kill or permanently disable tens of thousands of people, impoverishing and disabling people for generations after the initial spills, fires, explosions, forever chemicals firefighting foam, etc. Zenith has never been a good neighbor or good citizen and gives us no proof of paying risk bonds of the amount the facility and process can harm, and that all affected city, county, and state governments do not have the money to pay or provide health care and compensation and replacement of lost housing, businesses, farms, fisheries, shipping lanes, etc. Zenith provides no public good and it causes too great of catastrophic risks that increase our insurance and lower our bond values, and scare away good investors and businesses. Companies like Zenith keep lying then declare bankruptcy, destroying our economy and environment and civic hope.	No	03/19/25 1:16 PM

	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
63	Dwight J. Monohon	Support	I	No	03/19/25 1:23 PM
64	Anna Edelmann	Support		No	03/19/25 1:23 PM
65	Well Rivera	Support		No	03/19/25 1:45 PM
66	Anonymous	Support		No	03/19/25 1:47 PM
67	Anonymous	Support		No	03/19/25 1:50 PM
68	Anonymous	Support	Zenith is endangering lives. End contract now.	No	03/19/25 1:54 PM
69	Anonymous	Support	We need to hold Zenith Energy accountable for their actions in our city and we need to have an open and transparent process to investigate their violations of city codes. This document calls for just such a process. It is of the utmost importance for the direct safety of Portland residences, as well as for achieving long-term climate goals that we not allow oil and gas companies cart blanche to operate however they see fit with no consequences in our city! As a portland resident I urge you all to support this resolution.	No	03/19/25 2:07 PM
70	Helen Jones	Support		No	03/19/25 2:08 PM
71	Arthi	Support	<p>Dear city councilors and Mayor Wilson,</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. My name is Arthi Vijaykumar. I am an engineer and a Portland District 3 resident. I am writing to express my strong support of resolution 2025-070. The resolution's directives align with the urgent need to restore public trust, ensure compliance with legal standards, and prioritize transparency in decisions impacting Portland's environmental and community health. I urge the rest of the city council members and Mayor Wilson to pass this resolution and promptly implement all its directives.</p> <p>There is a long record of secrecy, misrepresentations, and dishonesty from city staff's handling of Zenith LUCS applications, whereas the new city government was elected on the grounds of increasing transparency and accountability. The directives in this resolution, including calling on the Mayor to investigate the franchise agreement, involving the city auditor to evaluate past administrative processes pertaining to Zenith's applications, and putting all communications between Zenith and the City Bureaus personnels on public record, are solid first steps to building trust with constituents.</p> <p>In addition, Zenith has had a history of causing environmental, public health, and safety concerns. DEQ investigation found evidence of Zenith's handling ultra-low sulfur diesel and renewable diesel, violating the City's 2035 Comprehensive Plan. The city leadership has a responsibility to ensure its franchisee comply with city regulations. This resolution can provide crucial knowledge and set up a mechanism to review evidence of compliance or noncompliance, which will help address public concerns.</p> <p>I urge the Council to adopt Resolution No. 2025-070 in full, and would like to thank you for your commitment to accountability and transparency with your constituents.</p> <p>Best, Arthi</p>	No	03/19/25 2:25 PM
72	Anonymous	Support		No	03/19/25 2:31 PM
73	James Marshall	Support	I'm concerned about the environmental impact of Zenith Energy Terminal Holdings, LLC's operations in Portland. I would like to see our city invest in green energy solutions and divest from fossil fuels.	No	03/19/25 2:34 PM

	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
74	Lea Velliquette	Support	I am concerned about the environmental impact of Zenith's operations in Portland. I would like to see our city invest in green energy solutions and divest from fossil fuels.	No	03/19/25 2:34 PM
75	Kathleen Boylan	Support	I strongly urge the council to adopt Resolution No, 2025-070. The behavior of elected officials and high level city staff has created an enormous amount of distrust in city government in the community. Many of us worked for and supported our new form of city government because we were convinced that the public would have more transparency and involvement in future decisions. The health of our community is jeopardized by the actions and violations committed by Zenith. Please restore public trust, show concern and protection of public safety and cement our confidence in our new form of city government.	No	03/19/25 2:58 PM
76	Richard Sheperd	Support	Dear City Council, I urge you to vote YES on the proposed resolution. Zenith Energy has performed a back-room deal that must be exposed. It's oil terminals are extreme hazards to our community, and are potentially life-threatening to the people living in the Linnton neighborhood. We must be transparent with the public about what deals were done before this new Council, and investigate any wrongdoing. I applaud Councilor Green and Morillo for this resolution in an effort to pursue maximal public transparency, and good governance. Please vote YES on this resolution. Sincerely, Richard Sheperd	No	03/19/25 3:16 PM
77	Kate Murphy, Columbia Riverkeeper	Support	*Correction to previously submitted testimony from Columbia Riverkeeper: Please note the corrected dollar amount for the DEQ fine. Chair Clark, Vice-Chair Morillo, and Committee Members, I strongly support Resolution 2025-070 concerning the investigation of Zenith Energy's franchise agreement. After years of Zenith's ongoing violations being largely ignored, this resolution is an opportunity to protect the health and safety of Portlanders, an opportunity to reduce the threat of harm to communities all along the transport route, and an opportunity to finally hold a dangerous fossil fuel company accountable for years of rule breaking. This community has provided you with more than enough information to, at minimum, prompt an investigation. The Department of Environmental Quality's recent decision to issue Zenith a \$372,600 fine for illegal construction and a requirement for a new Land Use Compatibility Statement should be evidence enough of a violation of the franchise agreement. Please look carefully at the evidence in front of you. Zenith does not deserve yet another chance to prove it can not be trusted. Locally, protective action to reduce harm is more critical than ever. Together, we have a lot of work to do. We deserve the opportunity to put our energy into supporting the many diverse needs in our community. We can not afford to waste more time and precious resources accommodating Zenith, a fossil fuel company that has proven it has no intention of being part of the solution to the problem it is actively creating and that it continues to profit from. We are counting on you to do the right thing and pass this resolution. Thank you. Kate Murphy Columbia Riverkeeper	No	03/19/25 3:21 PM
78	Anonymous	Support	I strongly support this investigation into Zenith and publication of all findings!	No	03/19/25 3:34 PM
79	Anonymous	Support		No	03/19/25 3:39 PM

	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
80	Alyssa Koomas	Support	Portlanders deserve transparency on dealings with Zenith Energy and a city government that prioritizes safety over profits. Violations committed by Zenith must be investigated. Mayor Wilson said he would revoke Zenith's permit if there was "malfeasance" however it requires an investigation to determine so.	No	03/19/25 4:55 PM
81	Story Schwantes	Support	Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. My name is Story schwantes and I live in D2. I support resolution No. 2025-070. I'm glad councilors are looking for the truth and investigating the facts around Zenith's operations. Please pass this resolution!!	No	03/19/25 4:59 PM
82	Johanna Shreve	Support		No	03/19/25 5:01 PM
83	Simon Foucher, Engineer	Support	I STRONGLY support this investigation into Zenith. I am recent homeowner in St Johns and plan to call this place home for the rest of my life. With this in mind, I am depending on the city to provide basic health and safety information for me and my neighbors. It has come to my attention that Zenith has violated multiple regulations and laws, and that is simply unacceptable. I'm also disappointed in some city officials who have not done their due diligence in holding Zenith accountable. The community is united and needs to be taken seriously, as these concerns relate to our health and the health of our environment. Investigate Zenith and increase transparency!	No	03/19/25 5:06 PM
84	Dr. Joshua Baker	Support	I strongly support the resolution for increased transparency and an investigation into potential impropriety concerning Zenith Energy. At this moment in time, when democracy is being undermined by corporate influence and environmental protections are being eroded for the benefit of special interests, it is imperative that the Portland government and its civil servants prioritize accountability and transparency, ensuring decisions serve the public good without compromise.	No	03/19/25 5:08 PM
85	Jordan Lewis	Support	<p>Hello council president Pirtle-Guiney and vice president Koyama-Lane, as well as the rest of the council.</p> <p>I'm testifying today in support of agenda item 13, city document 2025-70, the measure to investigate Zenith Energy and city staff who displayed improper conduct when interacting with Zenith, which has undermined public trust and cast doubt on the city of Portlands unelected staff. I have testified on this in the past so rather than repeat my testimony, I want to talk more broadly about the CEI hub.</p> <p>I continue to hear how the demand for liquid fuels is expected to rise, and so an increase of renewable fuels activity at the CEI hub is necessary to meet climate targets. I would be clear-eyed about this point if I believed the city was making a good faith effort to electrify and draw down overall liquid fuels consumption in some way, which are dangerous, renewable or not.</p> <p>However, the city has made a paltry effort to reduce oil consumption by my memory. The city has let the Pre-Covid Rose Lane program largely die on the vine, with marginal improvements even as we barrel towards climate disaster. The city continues to greenlight road capacity projects like rose quarter and the IBR program, defunding real transportation alternatives as well as general non-transportation funds. Two transit improvement projects have been completed since the orange line, and neither are as ambitious as the light rail projects that happened every 5 years in the 90s and 2000s.</p> <p>I cannot support the continued expansion of the CEI hub in the name of climate progress if all other means of decarbonization are a foregone conclusion. Voting yes on this measure is a good first step towards justice for the communities endangered by the CEI hub.</p>	No	03/19/25 5:19 PM
86	Jenna Seim	Support		No	03/19/25 5:53 PM
87	Anonymous	Support	I live directly across the river from the CEI Hub and an extremely concerned about the environmental impacts and effects on human health. All communication related to Zenith must be available to the public. We have a right to know!	No	03/19/25 5:57 PM
88	Anonymous	Support		No	03/19/25 6:22 PM

	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
89	Anonymous	Support		No	03/19/25 6:22 PM
90	Anna Held	Support		No	03/19/25 6:33 PM

Portland City Council, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Monday, March 10, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.

Testimony List

Document Number	Name
2025-070	William Scholz
2025-070	Michaela McCormick
2025-070	Sarah Taylor
2025-070	Laurie King

Portland City Council
Wednesday, March 19, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.
Testimony List

	Document Number	Name
1	2025-070	Michaela McCormick
2	2025-070	Khrizia Velacruz