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Comments submitted to the

Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

Commissioners: I am afraid that you are in danger of not seeing the forest for the trees. The trees are jobs and taxes and train traffic and river traffic and explosions and sensitive riparian areas. Trees are important. We all love trees. But the forest is more important and, in this case, the forest is a world awash in fossil fuels and facing imminent destruction unless we change our ways immediately and profoundly.

The Pembina proposal is a disaster from beginning to end. The beginning is extraction of the precursors to propane from fracking and tar sands. Environmentally massively destructive and carbon intensive. Next is the process of transformation into propane. More carbon into the atmosphere. Transportation via rail to Portland. More carbon. Refrigeration and storage in Portland, massive amounts of carbon and gobbling up of "clean" electrical power. Transport to Asia in giant Very Large Gas Carriers, burning bunker fuel and pouring carbon into the atmosphere. And all of this in order to provide Asia with another fossil fuel which will only add to the disaster facing us all.

This entire chain of extraction, production, transport and consumption will not bring us one iota closer to a sustainable economy. If we continue down this and similar roads, any hope of overcoming the challenge of climate change will be lost. Please, say no to the Pembina proposal and any and all expansions of fossil fuel infrastructure. Focus instead on both the forest and the trees that will be part of a new economy of conservation and development of sustainable energy.

Thank you for your kind consideration of these remarks.