

Climate Action Coalition:
*350PDX, Portland Rising Tide,
Unitarian Universalist Community for Earth,
NoKXL, Sustainable Energy and Economy Network,
Portland Raging Grannies, PDXX Bike Swarm, Our Children's Trust*

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Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission
1900 SW 4th Ave, Suite 7200
Portland, OR 97201

RE: Proposed Pembina Terminal Zoning Variance Hearings

Dear Planning and Sustainability Commissioners and Staff:

As representatives of some of Portland's most committed climate justice organizations, we write to express our deep concern regarding barriers to public participation at the January 13th hearing. Please note that we are requesting an early response to this letter.

Difficulty in determining the hearing schedule made it challenging to plan testimony and other expressions of opposition to the proposed zoning modification. These problems were increased by last minute changes to the meeting agenda. The Commission initially informed the public that testimony regarding the Pembina proposal would be the first item on the agenda and encouraged parties to sign-up to testify at noon or shortly thereafter. Our member groups and others reached out to many hundreds of supporters asking them to plan their day around a testimony opportunity beginning at 12:30. Only a few days prior to the hearing we discovered that the agenda had been changed to put the propane terminal issue last, with testimony now scheduled to begin at 3:00 pm. This change created substantial barriers to participation. Most importantly, this schedule did not leave adequate time for the numbers of folks that were expected to testify. Many people had to adjust their work schedules and make child care arrangements in order to attend. Last-minute schedule changes make it impossible for some of us to make arrangements to attend. Attempts to reach out to the Commission to oppose this change were rebuffed. Still another barrier to participation occurred when, despite the fact that it was clear that this issue had become a major public controversy, adequate numbers of testimony

sign-up cards were not available for quite some time and some members of the public who had planned to testify were excluded for this reason.

When the propane issue was at last taken up, proponents from the City and representatives from Pembina spoke first. Their presentations and the Commissioners' subsequent questions took up a substantial amount of the total time available. The opposition panel was kept to a very strict time limit and by the time the actual public testimony began it was after 4:00 pm. As a consequence of these facts, large numbers of community, faith and labor leaders and concerned citizens were unable to deliver their prepared oral testimony.

We hope that the Commission can avoid a repeat of these problems at the March 17th hearing and want to register our support of the recent letter regarding these issues sent by Bob Salinger of the Audubon Society.

At this time we request:

- That the schedule and agenda for the day's meeting be finalized and made public at least two weeks prior to March 17th.
- That the Commission clearly state in advance of the hearing, the priorities and criteria that it will consider in reaching its' recommendation.
- That the issue of the propane terminal zoning modification be the first item on the agenda on the 17th and that at least three hours be set aside for public testimony.
- That each member of the public be allowed to testify for three minutes.
- That Commissioners be given appropriate time after public testimony is complete to study and consider that testimony before voting on the proposed zoning modification.
- That the Commission's discussion and decision making occur in an open and public manner.

Thank you for your kind consideration of, and prompt response to, this letter.

Respectfully, on behalf of the Climate Action Coaliton

Lowen Berman
Harlan Shober

Cc:
Mayor Charlie Hales
Commissioners: Nick Fish
 Amanda Fritz
 Steve Novick
 Dan Saltzman