

I have ONE point to make: the history of the Code Section that Pembina seeks to amend was never ever intended to provide for the kind of use that Pembina plans and their proposed amendment to include propane transport must be denied on the basis of the threat it makes to the environment and the people living in it.

Historically, this section of the Code evolved from the merging of several watershed plans, and by reviewing its enactment history one can see that the City just couldn't figure out how to wrangle the transport of small amounts of hazardous materials across areas it designated as conservation zones, that there were several sections which attempted to address hazardous substances and those sections were in different watershed plans--- so at that time the Council likely thought this would be an administrative solution that would make this--at that time a small problem---go away.

When this language made it into the 1994 Code revision, it was a different time in the life of this planet--- way before we began to comprehend the impact that fossil fuel emissions have on the sustainability of our Northwest environment. Since 1994 the population of the areas most affected by any spill, explosion or air pollution have dramatically increased. Clark County has more than doubled since 1994 and the population of North Portland has increased about 60% and is still growing. North Portland will continue to see high growth rates as it remains the last best place in Portland for affordable housing, and Washington's easier on the pocketbook taxation policies insure continued growth of close in Clark County.

Since this time in 1994 we and the whole world have become aware of just what is happening to the air we breathe, the water we drink and the extreme climatic events brought on by global warming. These are different times. This entire Code section is antiquated in just 20 years since its passage. I mean this entire section approving trucks and rail transport of pretty much anything over environmentally sensitive zones was way way before we started transporting the dirtiest most explosive fossil fuel cargos across America. These are the last gasp efforts of companies who got rich off fossil fuels to squeeze out the worst of the worst fuels, to extract from anywhere anytime anyway--and they're willing to pay anything to get their way.

But this Code Section was never intended to be the gateway law for Portland to

become the faucet for any and every kind rail, truck and pipeline transport of fossil fuels. This Code change in 1994 has no accompanying comments unlike other much more benign Code sections that do have commentary. Clearly it was not controversial at all then, just intended to plug up a couple dangling code sections for the transport of small amounts of hazardous materials. And what we thought was hazardous then is not what we know to be hazardous now.

Do you really think for a nanosecond that if this entire current Code section were to come today as an Ordinance proposal before the Portland City council that there would be no lively debate with plenty of comments--unlike 1994 when there were none? I sincerely doubt it would pass in its current Wild West form, seemingly limitless with no restrictions.

Your deliberations must use common sense to see the the historical context of this 1994 Code section as well as the current scientific climate and population changes----and not approve this amendment and pass the buck onto the Fire Department to determine if this kind of facility and transport is a problem for our citizens and the environment. The Fire Department is not the Sustainability Commission. To approve this is to close your eyes to the Portland Climate Action plan, to close your eyes to the real impact of Pembina's propane plant, and to close your eyes to what is really happening in our world. To approve this you have to put blinders on and stare at the Code language as if the language alone were your marching orders. No, you must march to the drumbeat of history and science. You must reject this amendment as a vestige of an era gone by when hardly any one thought that there was any connection between fossil fuel burning and continued life on this planet. Act responsibly to bring Portland into the 21st Century.