

April 6th, 2015 Public Testimony re: Plan for a Propane Terminal
Testimony of Harriet Cooke, MD, ABIHM, MPH,

To the Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission,

I am testifying **against** this proposed Propane Terminal for three vital reasons:

1. The **immediate and persistent danger** that harboring such an explosive gas will put our city and everyone on the transport path in.
2. It is the **absolute wrong direction** that any city that is seriously working to mitigate and minimize catastrophic climate change and working towards true sustainability needs to be heading.
3. The economics of supporting clean renewable energy development leads to more jobs AND more jobs we can be proud of, jobs that move us towards restoring our world, not putting another nail in the coffin.

The immediate danger reflects the explosiveness of this propane. Fracked propane is much more explosive than conventional propane, even on a "good" day. A good day being one where there is no power shortage where the refrigeration required to keep the gas from exploding isn't compromised, and where there is no significant earthquake, which is part of our region's legacy. Earthquakes happen here. Geologists say we are overdue. The proposed terminal would be built on land that will liquefy in a major earthquake which could easily trigger an explosion.

In addition there are the risks of explosion all along the railway and river transport routes.

And even if these immediate and serious concerns did not exist, THIS IS A FOSSIL FUEL! And we are at decade zero of climate change. This is the time to do everything we can to stop any rise of emissions and put all of our efforts into building the infrastructure for clean renewable energy systems. This is NOT the time to invest in infrastructure to bring any new fossil fuels anywhere! Let alone a dirty fossil fuel whose extraction process highly pollutes the land, air, and water.

This is the time to learn to say NO! NO expansion of the fossil fuel industry. Thank you for the fossil fuels in the past and it is past time to move into a clean sustainable way of life for all. It is time for the fossil fuel industry to begin to contract. This is what divestment from fossil fuels looks like.

It is time for the City of Portland to become a real leader by saying NO to any new fossil infrastructure and to continue courting and supporting clean renewable energy development.

It is time for the City of Portland to make decisions deserving our recent award of "climate champion," by the White House.

Thank you.

Harriet Cooke, 503-975-4571

*No zone changes that support expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure.
Cap & Trade doesn't work! Emissions keep climbing.
NWCST*