

**Oral testimony submitted by Daphne Wysham, Center for Sustainable Economy
April 7, 2015**

Good afternoon. My name is Daphne Wysham, and I am speaking today as a mother and a climate policy fellow with the Center for Sustainable Economy. The Pembina Propane Terminal proposed for Portland will undermine Portland's and the planet's sustainability in numerous ways.

I live within the blast zone of train tracks carrying crude and other petroleum products. I fear for my community's safety. A recent study by the U.S. Department of Transportation forecasts at least 10 derailments of oil trains per year causing billions of dollars in damages and untold loss of life. Mile-long trains loaded solely with propane are far more dangerous than oil trains; were one to explode, it could cause far more damage and loss of life than an oil train. Physicists compare the blast from a propane train explosion to a Hiroshima-sized nuclear blast. At a recent train safety conference in Olympia, Washington, locomotive engineers expressed grave concern for the communities their trains travel through. They told us they are too often sleep-deprived, and forced to work around the clock. Engineers that report safety hazards are routinely fired.

Pembina claims that much of this propane will be derived from fracking for gas and used to make propylene. My organization, the Center for Sustainable Economy calculates that the daily climate impact of just one link in the chain of making propylene, namely the propane dehydrogenation process, would release the equivalent the daily emissions from 760,000 passenger vehicles or 1.5 times the number of such vehicles registered in Multnomah County in 2013.

In addition, both the process of fracking to produce propane and the end product—plastic—is completely unsustainable. Fracking for oil and gas has been banned in numerous municipalities, states and countries due to the unacceptable risks it poses to drinking water, among other serious health and environmental impacts. The State of Oregon is considering a 10-year moratorium on fracking. In addition, the City of Portland has banned plastic bags, recognizing their harm to the environment. And Oregon's legislature is currently considering a ban on microbeads made from plastics, including propylene. Should Pembina's facility get built, we will be exporting a material that will make products Portland and Oregon have banned or are considering banning because they are harmful to the environment.

Please: Live up to your City's green reputation, help us move away from an unsustainable economy, such as that based on fossil fuels, and reject the Pembina Propane Export terminal.

Thank you!