

Good Afternoon. My name is Jan Zuckerman and I am a mother of 3 and have been a teacher for more than 30 years. Twenty years ago, I co-founded The Environmental Middle School, which is now Sunnyside Environmental School here in SE Portland and have been dedicated to connecting children to the natural world for as long as I can remember.

As you can imagine, it is not easy to look middle school students in the eyes and teach them the hard facts about what we have done to our planet in the name of progress, and at the same time instill hope in them about the future with an unstable climate. For years, my colleagues and I skirted around the issue because it was just too hard to face. Although we aren't losing our island culture to the sea, or dying of starvation, our actions, here in Portland, impact those that are suffering. It is clear that we no longer have the luxury of ignoring the facts, nor is it ethical to leave our children to solve the problems that we have created.

Three years ago, we held a climate change teach-in at Sunnyside and our keynote speaker, Riki Ott, a marine toxicologist and activist, shared startling facts about climate change with our students. Yet, instead of dwelling on the negative, she told the children that they were fortunate to live in the most important time in history where the very future of life on the planet as we know it, was in their hands. She passionately invited them to seize the opportunity to make real change, by educating themselves, making their voices heard and taking action to set us on a path of life, not destruction. Her words were inspiring and hopeful, yet urgent. Now is the time, not tomorrow, or next year, right now we must become change agents- there is no time to lose. Unfortunately, our children cannot do this alone. They need us to stand with them.

25 years ago, city planners had the foresight to protect a tiny area of green space in Portland and now it is up to you to decide whether to change the zoning or leave it in place. Thoughtfully choosing to reject an amendment sends a very clear message to our children, the state, the nation and the world that we value life and alternative means of energy over dirty fossil fuel extraction, transportation and exportation. It is our moral and ethical responsibility to value life over the shortsighted profit of Pembina and other companies that contribute to climate instability.

There is no question that once we allow the terminal to be built, we set precedence and there is no turning back.

We are at a crossroads and it takes brave people to take brave action. I don't need to reiterate the facts about the dangers of extracting, moving, holding and burning a highly flammable fuel such as propane and what this means for future generations. You know the facts. You also know that whether we burn the gas here or it is burned across the ocean, we are responsible for the outcome. It does not seem logical to give the okay to Pembina to export propane before our city comes up with a clear policy about exportation of fossil fuels. Nor can we justify a terminal that pours unprecedented amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere simply by coming up with ways to offset its carbon footprint. We can, however, and must make it a priority to stop all fossil fuel transportation and exportation until we have a policy that includes and honors the voices of those most impacted.

That is why I am begging you to do the right thing. Don't you want to be able to look in the eyes of our children knowing that you have done everything possible to protect the atmosphere that they breathe, the water that they drink and the earth that provides them with sustenance? I know I do. Please stand with them as change agents. They need you, as policymakers, to do this now. Next year, when we hold our climate change teach-in at Sunnyside, we would like to invite you to share the story with our students of how you protected them and future generations.

Thank you.