

October 3, 2022
Heidi Cody

Vancouver City Council

Mayor McEnerny-Ogle, City Councilmembers and Staff,

My name is Heidi Cody and I live in Vancouver. Thank you for your perseverance to finally arrive at this hearing and vote, on a policy that protects Vancouver's health and safety. I am hopeful and excited about witnessing the passage of the fossil fuel ordinance that so many of us have been advocating for, for so long.

If we pass this ordinance, Vancouver won't contribute to any increase in mile-long trains carrying flammable fuel like LNG or LPG through our community. This ordinance also sends a clear message that new and expanded bulk fossil fuel projects are not welcome here.

Thank you to staff for crafting a policy with strong components, including establishing a 60,000 gallon threshold for smaller fuel facilities, allowing conversions of existing fossil fuel facilities only to cleaner fuels, and limiting "capacity" for expansions. From what I understand, staff has done a good job limiting loopholes.

I am grateful that conditional use permitting will be in place for most types of fuel facilities. The built-in public process for approving proposals is a crucial protection for our communities, particularly low-income and BIPOC neighborhoods that are already overburdened by health impacts and safety risks of bulk fossil fuel infrastructure.

The law will only be as strong as its enforcement and regulation. Will relying on Southwest Clean Air and the Washington Department of Ecology be enough to monitor new and expanded projects in our Heavy Industrial Zone? I don't know. I hope that the City can monitor and regulate these projects too. Air monitoring in the Fruit Valley Neighborhood should help with City oversight, as well as provide better information about Fruit Valley's exposure to air pollution.

Thank you for all your work on this ordinance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heidi Cody". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heidi Cody