

My name is Heidi Cody and I live in Vancouver.

If Zenith ignoring Portland's fossil fuel infrastructure ban teaches us anything, it's that if you give oil and gas companies an inch, they can take 3 million and one miles and keep going. I think the concern voiced tonight, to solicit testimonials about how 5 local fossil fuel companies might be impacted by a ban, is misplaced. We're not trying to put them out of business. We are preventing them from expanding, which is exactly what needs to happen as we transition to renewable energy. I would also say that renewable natural gas is not efficient, will delay the transition to clean renewable energy like wind and solar, and that harnessing the fumes from Vancouver's wastewater plant for RNG smacks of desperation.

I have been advocating on these issues for several years now, and there are a couple subtexts I keep coming back to:

The first has to do with health and safety. No matter what happens fossil fuel infrastructure-wise here locally, we are in the Cascade Subduction Zone and overdue for a catastrophic earthquake. Large-scale fossil fuel projects do not belong here, even though several are established. We could experience a huge fire or explosion from a wrecked train, or an oil spill in the Columbia that could devastate our aquifer, waterfront and wildlife.

The second subtext is cost. Some folks might argue that Vancouver will be losing business if we make a fossil fuel ban here permanent. I disagree. I say that the cost of a few lost jobs, particularly toxic jobs, is nothing —NOTHING—compared to the cost of a billion dollar plus cleanup should something go wrong here.

Oil is not inherently bad, but our continued reliance on fossil fuels is now jeopardizing our future. This summer has made clear that the climate crisis is here, with temperatures so high they scorched evergreen trees across the state. In your workshop someone asked how the City going to sell a fossil fuel ban to the citizens here. I have to say, Vancouver's citizens have consistently been telling the Port and the City that we do not want any more large fossil fuel infrastructure here. That is what we are telling you again, tonight. Please establish a permanent ban on expanding and new bulk fossil fuel projects in Vancouver. Thank you.