

Sept 12, 2022

Heidi Cody
1506 SE Court
Vancouver WA 98664

Planning Commission and City Council
City of Vancouver

Dear Planning Commission and City Council,

Today I am writing you a personal letter. I have been following the City's fossil fuel moratorium/ordinance process for some time now. Thank you for your ongoing efforts to pass an enforceable, strong ordinance. My personal opinion is that simpler is better for the ordinance, because if the fossil fuel industry can game it, they will.

I watched the City of Portland try to defend itself against new fossil fuel infrastructure after passing a no new fossil fuel infrastructure policy. Zenith Energy, a defunct asphalt facility, leveraged a loophole in Portland's policy, and was able to vastly increase throughput of fossil fuels, using existing infrastructure, transloading directly onto more and more trains, without adding new buildings or storage. This cost the City of Portland a lot of money and resources.

Vancouver should learn from Portland's misadventure. If you're not convinced, just go outside and smell the smoke in the air. Look directly at the hot pink-orange sun. It is time to drastically change how we are living. It is time for an ambitious Leading Edge Climate Action Framework, and a simple, targeted ordinance against new or expanded bulk fossil fuel infrastructure.

If the City is not going to keep the ordinance simple, which is Option A, I ask that you proceed with extreme caution with Option B. Conditional use permitting should be in place for everything new. I have two reasons for requesting this:

1. New cleaner fuels are emerging technologies. Some might argue that with a little research, we'll understand them better and be able to greenlight them. Perhaps. On the other hand, this view assumes that available information and marketing is on the up-and-up. But as my research into renewable natural gas (RNG) and NW Natural's Smart Energy program showed me, RNG is supported by a lot of marketing blather, and very little reliable information.

Did you know there are blue, green, grey, brown, pink and turquoise versions of hydrogen fuels? This article by the Sierra Club [Hydrogen: Future of Clean Energy or a False Solution?](#) covers some of them. While "cleaner" and "step-down" fuels are an

important step towards a green energy future, the cleaner fuels category is broad. The inclusion of the “cleaner fuels” category complicates this ordinance, which has already been stopped once by the oil industry. Cleaner fuels aren’t automatically safe or cost-efficient, just because they’re not fossil fuels.

I have a friend who works as a Regulatory Analyst in Attorney General Bob Ferguson’s office. He told me last week that his work has shown him hydrogen is not cost-efficient right now, though it could be effective in hard to electrify sectors. Putting in infrastructure for speculative fuel technologies may not pay off. Does building new infrastructure for a fuel that’s not cost-effective make sense? Does that type of investment make sense at our Port, or in Fruit Valley? These are valid considerations.

2. Vancouver has six bulk fossil fuel facilities already. They are all on land which is at moderate to high risk for liquefaction in an earthquake, either on Port property or in the Fruit Valley neighborhood. Fruit Valley, which is largely BIPOC and low-income, is already overburdened by air pollution, proximity to existing fossil fuel infrastructure, and seismic risk. Exposing these already marginalized communities to even more risk deserves a built-in public process. The folks who live there must be allowed to weigh in on proposed new fuel facilities of any kind or size. Would you like to live by these projects?

The original intent of the moratorium is to protect community health and safety. I am concerned that this crucial focus is getting lost, as considerations for industry threaten to weaken the ordinance. I realize there is pressure from all sides on this issue. Thank you for your work, and for your consideration of input from the public.

Sincerely,

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

Heidi Cody