



The League of Women Voters of Portland

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DATE: September 12, 2016

TO: Planning and Sustainability Commission

FROM: Fran Dyke, President
Margaret Noel, Vice President
Julie Chapman, Action Committee member
Ann Dudley, Action Committee member

RE: **Fossil Fuel Terminal Zoning Amendments, Proposed Draft**

Since the 1950's the League of Women Voters has worked at federal and state levels to protect air, land and water resources. More recently, the League has lobbied vigorously for comprehensive legislation to control global climate change. Any increase in fossil fuel infrastructure is not consistent with the current League of Women Voters natural resources and climate change positions, or with Portland's Climate Action Plan.

The Proposed Draft allows for the expansion of capacity in existing terminals within their current sites and for the construction of an unlimited number of 5 million gallon fossil fuel facilities. And, although the 2035 Comprehensive Plan would *limit* fossil fuel distribution and storage facilities to those serving the regional market, the plan does not *require* that we continue to rely on fossil fuels for anticipated future growth.

Your own Proposed Draft document acknowledges the velocity with which we must transition from fossil fuels on p.19: "The lower-carbon fossil fuels do have appeal as a bridge to widespread use of renewable energy, but investments in major infrastructure typically take decades to recoup, and the transition to renewables needs to go much faster than that to stabilize global emissions."

90% of Portland's industrial areas have moderate-to-high liquefaction susceptibility in a major earthquake. There is almost no safe, seismically stable industrial land on which to site further growth of fossil fuel terminals and facilities in the city of Portland.

We echo the concerns expressed in the Proposed Draft, that "Substantial local investment in fossil fuel infrastructure and large new terminals could hinder local growth mo-

mentum in Clean Energy industries.”

Family wage jobs can be grown in the emerging renewable energy sectors.

Burning fossil fuels for energy to supply the needs of an increasing regional population is counterproductive in its adverse impacts on climate and increasing mitigation costs on local, national and global scales. When governments in the United States are spending billions to respond to disasters intensified or directly caused by climate change (wild fires, extreme heat “events,” drought, sea level rise contributing to storm and tidal surges), a commitment to the rapid transition to non-fossil fuel energy sources is crucial.

In light of this, the League of Women Voters of Portland believes that increasing capacity for fossil fuels in the city of Portland is contrary to our long-range goal of combating climate change. We must invest in energy sources that don’t emit greenhouse gases and in the grid capacity to utilize them efficiently.

If “Cities Lead,” we want to head in the right direction!