

# Columbia Gorge Communities and Organizations asking the Port of Vancouver to End the Lease for the Tesoro-Savage Oil Terminal

Port of Vancouver  
Board of Commissioners  
3103 N.W. Lower River Rd.  
Vancouver, WA 98660

April 11, 2016

Dear Port Commissioners Wolfe, LaBrant and Oliver,

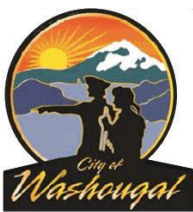
Those of us in the Columbia River Gorge, including the cities of Washougal, Stevenson, Hood River, Mosier as well as the Washougal School District and Skamania County Fire District #4, are very concerned about the proposed Tesoro-Savage Vancouver Energy Project. We see the project as a direct threat to the beauty, safety and economy of our region. We encourage the Port of Vancouver to use its earliest available opportunity to move away from North America’s largest oil-by-rail project.

The fires, explosions, pollution and death that oil trains have caused throughout North American are well-documented. It would be a tragedy for an oil train accident to happen here, in the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area, a world renowned treasure and home to approximately 70,000 people.

Already in 2016, over 289,000 people have urged the State of Washington to deny the project. Now is the time for the Port of Vancouver to exercise its ability to escape the lease by August 1st. The facts about oil-by-rail are largely known. The trains are dangerous, and the environmental and public safety risks are significant. The Port has all the information it needs to come to a new decision. Furthermore, the Port will enjoy broad support for making a decision to end its lease for the Tesoro Savage project.

The Port of Vancouver has a powerful opportunity to be a leader. We encourage you to exercise the power that you wisely negotiated and end the lease. Ending the lease would eliminate a direct threat to our way of life in the Columbia Gorge.

Sincerely,



Sean Guard, Mayor



*Mike Stromme*

Mike Stromme, Superintendent



*Frank Cox*

Frank Cox, Mayor

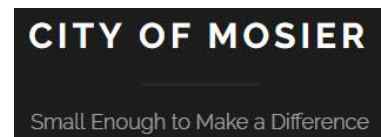


*Timothy W. Young*

Chairman, Board of Commissioners  
Skamania County Fire District #4



Paul Blackburn, Mayor



*Arlene Burns*

Arlene Burns, Mayor

cc: The Honorable Patty Murray, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Ron Wyden, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Jeff Merkley, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Greg Walden, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Earl Blumenauer, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Jamie Herrera-Beutler, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Jay Inslee, Governor, State of Washington  
The Honorable Kate Brown, Governor, State of Oregon  
Todd Coleman, CEO, Port of Vancouver