

Publically Elected Leaders, Gorge Cities and Organizations ask the Port of Vancouver to End the Lease for the Tesoro-Savage Oil Terminal

For Immediate Release

April 12, 2016

Media Contacts:

Nick Hogan, 509-427-5970, nick@ci.stevenson.wa.us , City of Stevenson, WA

Peter Cornelison, 541-490-8473, peterc@gorge.net , City of Hood River, OR

Rail Communities & Agencies to Port of Vancouver; End the Oil Lease!

Be a good neighbor; eliminate a direct threat to our way of life

Vancouver, WA – Today letters were delivered to the Port of Vancouver Commissioners from thirty-one elected officials throughout the Pacific Northwest as well as four cities in the Columbia Gorge and two agencies. The letter from SELA (Safe Energy Leadership Alliance) asked the Port to terminate their lease with Tesoro-Savage since “Hundreds of communities across our region will bear the burden of impacts to traffic, health, and environment and face catastrophic risks for spills and explosions from oil trains and spill from vessels serving the proposed facilities.”

In a separate letter from Columbia Gorge Communities and Agencies the Port was told that “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.”

Hood River, OR Mayor Paul Blackburn stated that “This terminal and the relentless oil train traffic that would feed it would threaten our city and citizens quality of life. We ask the Port of Vancouver Commissioners to consider their upstream neighbors along the Columbia River.” In Stevenson, WA, Mayor Frank Cox added “we must not let the Columbia Gorge become a fossil fuel superhighway. The chance of an explosive oil train fire or oil spill into the Columbia River is too great; it’s not worth the risk.”

Both letters called on the Port of Vancouver Commissioners to take this opportunity to exert leadership and enjoy the broad public support that would come from ending their lease with Tesoro-Savage.

The Port of Vancouver is taking public testimony today in on terminating the outstanding lease with Tesoro-Savage Companies and is expected to reach a decision at their following meeting on April 15 at the Ports administrative office in Vancouver.

###

Safe Energy Leadership Alliance (SELA), is a coalition of more than 165 local, state, and tribal leaders from across the Pacific Northwest, Montana, Idaho, and Canada. SELA represents a broad range of urban and rural areas with diverse interests but a shared mission to protect the health and safety of our communities.