



April 11, 2016

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

RE: Review of Lease for Tesoro-Savage Oil Terminal

Dear Port Commissioners Wolfe, LaBrant, and Oliver:

Your upcoming decision as Port Commissioners to continue or terminate the lease needed to support Tesoro-Savage's proposed Petroleum Terminal has implications that extend to numerous communities along the rail and barge lines that would serve the terminal. We strongly encourage the Port of Vancouver to use its earliest available opportunity to move away from North America's largest oil-by-rail project.

We are members of members of the Safe Energy Leadership Alliance (SELA), 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.

We are very concerned about the proposed Tesoro-Savage Vancouver Energy Project. The proposed Tesoro-Savage Terminal would receive, store, and transfer an average of 360,000 barrels of crude oil a day, transforming the Columbia into one of the nation's highest volume corridors for crude oil transport. Oil would travel via rail through Spokane, along the Columbia River shoreline, to Vancouver, Washington, and then by barge or tanker out the Columbia River and along our ocean coast.

With historical development patterns along rail lines and rivers, these oil trains pass through densely populated city centers, business districts, and recreation areas. Additional rail and vessel traffic comes with increased risks of oil leaks, spills, and catastrophic explosions like those that have occurred in West Virginia or Lac Mégantic. Potential oil spills into the Columbia threaten to undo the hundreds of millions of dollars invested in salmon recovery in the Columbia Basin and damage treaty resource areas. Waterways and rail lines carry risks to communities beyond the Port facility.

SELA members submitted joint comments last July on the Draft EIS for the Tesoro-Savage proposal. Key concerns include:

- Failure to fully describe and propose adequate mitigation for the risks of spill, explosion, and fire to communities along rail and barge lines;
- Documented lack of resources and capacity for local emergency management agencies and first responders to respond to a major derailment, spill, or fire;
- Projections for major cumulative impacts on to transportation and emergency responders at at-grade crossings and freight delay without clear responsibility for mitigation, and
- Impacts to Tribal access to fishing grounds and harm to fish habitat, and resulting impairment of Treaty rights.

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. To date, the project proponents have not been able to offer adequate mitigation to address these impacts.

The Port of Vancouver has a powerful opportunity to be a leader. We encourage you to review the documented risks and impacts in the DEIS and exercise the power that you wisely negotiated to end the lease.

Sincerely,



Emily Bentley
Alderman, City of Missoula, MT



Paul Blackburn
Mayor, City of Hood River, OR



Jack Burkman
Councilmember, City of Vancouver, WA

Arlene Burns
Mayor, City of Mosier, OR



Joan Cathey
Councilmember, City of Tumwater, WA



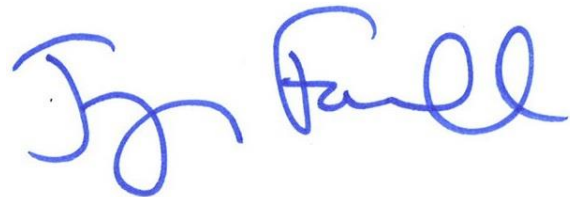
Christine Cook
Councilmember, City of Mukilteo, WA



Dow Constantine
King County Executive (WA)
Chair of SELA



Peter Cornelison
Councilor, City of Hood River, OR



Jessyn Farrell
Washington State Representative (46th LD)



Adrienne Fraley-Monillas
Councilmember, City of Edmonds, WA



Mark Gamba
Mayor, City of Milwaukie, OR



Lorena Gonzalez
Councilmember, City of Seattle, WA



Will Hall
Councilmember, City of Shoreline, WA



Bart Hansen
Councilmember, City of Vancouver, WA



Jordan Hess
Alderman, City of Missoula, MT



Sam Hunt
Washington State Representative (22nd LD)



Ruth Kagi
Washington State Representative (32nd LD)



Michael Lilliquist
Councilmember, City of Bellingham, WA



Liz Lovelett
Councilmember, City of Anacortes, WA



Doris McConnell
Councilmember, City of Shoreline, WA



Gerry Pollet
Washington State Representative (46th LD)



Chris Roberts
Mayor, City of Shoreline, WA



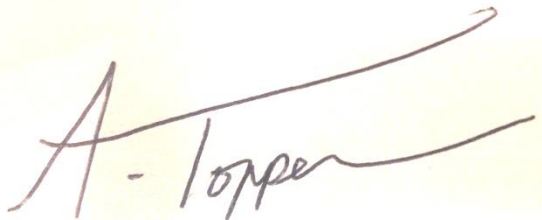
Wayne Roth
Councilmember, City of Bainbridge Island



Jesse Salomon
Councilmember, City of Shoreline, WA



Ben Stuckart
Councilmember, City of Spokane, WA



Alishia Topper
Councilmember, City of Vancouver, WA



Bryan von Lossberg
Alderman, City of Missoula, MT



Shannon Williamson
Councilmember, City of Sand Point, ID

Heidi West
Alderman, City of Missoula, MT



Mike O'Brien
Councilmember, City of Seattle, WA

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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