

patagonia works

February 3, 2016

Port Commission Brian Wolfe
POV Board of Commissioners
3103 N.W. Lower River Rd.
Vancouver, WA 98660

Dear Mr. Wolfe,

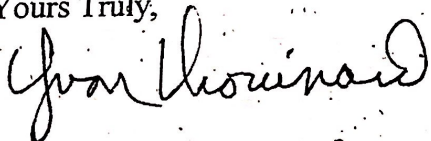
As an environmentalist and a businessman, I ask you to reconsider supporting the Tesoro-Savage crude oil terminal proposal at the Port of Vancouver USA. This project threatens one of the West's great rivers - the Columbia - deepening our addiction to oil at the expense of our rivers and surrounding environments. As the fourth largest river by volume in North America and critical habitat for salmon and steelhead, the Columbia River necessitates use of the precautionary principle. We have long passed the time when business and industry can evade responsibility for the impact they impose on our natural world. I recognize your decision of support stems from your commitment to Vancouver's economy and future. However, a vision for true economic growth and a strong community must weigh environmental consequences with long-term impact.

I understand difficult business decisions. As a young entrepreneur in the climbing industry, I was brought face to face with the harm my product was bringing to the places I loved. I chose innovation and environmental responsibility above profit. Those decisions at the infancy of the company set us down a path from which we have never looked back. Patagonia is now an environmental leader in the outdoor industry and business world. The work for environmental responsibility is ongoing. But it is imperative as business leaders that we act quickly to move society in the right direction. As a company, we are still dependent on fossil fuels but we're working toward clean energy sources. In my experience, successful growth often comes from innovation, environmental consciousness, and the pursuit of sustainability.

Considering the welfare of your community inherently includes the welfare of the Columbia River and its surrounding environments. The Tesoro-Savage project will be the largest oil by rail proposal in the Pacific Northwest, shipping an estimated 360,000 barrels of crude oil each day by rail along the Columbia River. With a project this large, risks are high and imminent. With crude oil transport comes oil spills, air and water quality impacts, and public safety concerns. All of which have long lasting effects beyond short term profit gains.

As civic and economic leaders, we have the opportunity to choose sustainable growth for our industries and communities. In the end, restraint and individual responsibility are our only assurances of a healthy, livable future. Please withdraw your support for the Port of Vancouver oil terminal.

Yours Truly,



Yvon Chouinard
Founder, Patagonia

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Subsidiaries: Patagonia, Inc., Great Pacific Iron Works (a California corporation)