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To: DEQ Director Feldon

From: Multnomah County Chair Jessica Vega Pederson and Multnomah County Commissioners

Date: December 7, 2023

CC: Environmental Quality Commission

Dear Director Feldon,

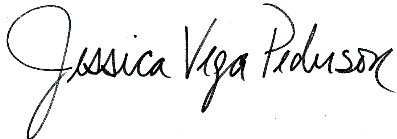
We are writing to voice opposition to the approval of Zenith Energy Terminal Holdings LLC's ("Zenith") current Air Contaminant Discharge Permit application. The Department of Environmental Quality has the responsibility and authority to protect public health and the environment. As a jurisdiction with shared values, we urge you to use your existing authority to reject this permit. We agree with advocates that the Oregon Administrative Procedure, 340-018-0050(2)(a)(C), and the circumstances surrounding this facility warrant a rejection of the permit.

The Multnomah Board of County Commissioners has strongly opposed this facility and other oil by rail transfer facilities because of the dangers they pose to our community. These risks extend from the well-head to the refinery, and will produce acute issues in Multnomah County as documented in a [2016](#) Multnomah County report on the risks of oil-by-rail transport, which showed that hundreds of schools and child care facilities are in the blast zone. Zenith has increased the shipment of these fuels into and through Multnomah County. Rail cars and barges also carry the risk of spilling their content into precious waterways, posing yet another environmental threat. Beyond this daily risk, Zenith is located on liquefiable soils at a fault line, making the site unsuitable for any type of fuel storage, as documented in a [2021](#) report commissioned by the County.

The Board of County Commissioners expressed these concerns in a [letter](#) to the Portland City Council during their initial consideration of the Zenith land use compatibility statement application. We have adopted a policy of opposing fossil fuel facilities, both for their immediate risks, and because of the worsening climate crisis. Zenith's reported commitment to transition to renewable fuels does not align with their expanded crude throughput at the facility. Government action is one of the most vital tools we have to address the climate crisis and hold the fossil fuel industry accountable.

You and the agency have the authority to reject this permit and we ask you to do so. Business as usual is unacceptable, given the immediate risks of this facility, and the risks of climate change. While the agency's actions to curb fossil fuel emissions are laudable, further action to curb the growth of fossil fuel infrastructure is needed. We encourage you to act with the boldness that the moment deserves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Vega Pederson". The script is fluid and cursive.

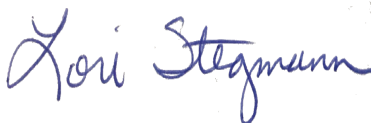
Multnomah County Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Meieran". The script is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Multnomah County Commissioner Sharon Meieran

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jesse Beason". The signature is very stylized, with large loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Multnomah County Commissioner Jesse Beason

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lori Stegmann". The script is cursive and clear.

Multnomah County Commissioner Lori Stegmann