



April 12, 2017

Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
900 Court Se NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Written Testimony on Senate Bill 1007 (SB1007)

Good Afternoon Chair Dembrow and Committee Members,

My name is Mark Gamba and I am the Mayor of Milwaukie. Thank you for taking the time to consider this important bill.

As I imagine you heard or witnessed, the Willamette Valley experienced an unusual wind event this last Friday - Annette Mattson of PGE is quoted as saying:

“This is the biggest storm we have experienced since 2006. At the peak about 168,000 customers were out. As of this writing, PGE has about 95,000 customers out. About 30,000 are in Clackamas County.”

No estimates are available yet, but one would have to assume the cost of the windstorm is well into the millions of dollars of damage.

A few months ago, the Willamette Valley experienced some other unusual weather. Here's a quote from the Oregonian from February 13: “Portland is requesting more than \$3.2 million in federal disaster aid to cover the costs of responding to the record-setting snow and ice storms that ravaged the city's roads, water pipes and power lines in January.” And that was only the cost to the “city” of Portland. The many businesses of the Portland region suffered all kinds of costs when neither employees nor customers could reach their businesses for whole weeks.

And a year ago this last December we suffered an unprecedented rain event which cost the city of Milwaukie alone around 2 million dollars in a damaged park and washed out bridge footing.

What these all have in common is that extreme weather events are becoming more common, which is exactly what scientists 30 years ago predicted when they first warned us about climate change. Those extreme weather events cost our society, our cities and our businesses a great deal of money. And we are just beginning to feel the effects of climate change. Eventually the weather will become so erratic that farmers will have great difficulty growing the food our nation needs. Imagine the cost associated with millions of people starving.

As it stands now, none of our state agencies is allowed to consider Climate Change when considering a permit. This is a glaring flaw in our system. As we consider the economic benefits of a project, we

also need to be able to consider ALL of the economic costs, both in the near term and in the future when weighing whether any given project is of benefit or detriment to the State.

The Milwaukie City Council strongly supports SB1007 and unanimously passed the attached Council Resolution 40-2017 regarding Climate Testing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Gamba', written in a cursive style.

Mark Gamba, Mayor

Attached: Resolution 40-2017



**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKIE, OREGON,
IN SUPPORT OF CLIMATE TESTING IN CONDUCTING REVIEWS FOR APPROVAL
OF PROPOSED FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.**

WHEREAS, the rapid development of fossil fuel resources in the western U.S. and Canada has resulted in numerous facility and infrastructure projects proposed to transport coal, diluted bitumen, natural gas, propane or other fossil fuels through the West Coast; and

WHEREAS, fossil fuels pose risks to safety, health, and livability, including mobility of people, other freight, and other commercial vehicles and pose considerable risks in the event of a major earthquake; and

WHEREAS, the extraction and combustion of fossil fuels are significant sources of greenhouse gas emissions and major contributors to climate change and pollution; and

WHEREAS, given the record of crude oil, coal and other fossil fuel transport accidents, such as Lac Megantic in 2013, the 1999 Bellingham pipeline leak or a coal train derailment, an event could have catastrophic effects if it occurred in any of Oregon's populated areas; and

WHEREAS, historically, when environmental accidents do occur, litigation over damages is drawn out over years, deflecting blame while undercutting timely assistance to affected communities; and

WHEREAS, economic opportunities presented by expanding fossil fuel infrastructure are modest, with few jobs and little value added; and

WHEREAS, local, regional and global economies are transitioning to low-carbon energy sources, and West Coast businesses are leaders in providing energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies and services; and

WHEREAS, the future of the fossil fuel industry is questionable given global action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, climate change, if unchecked, will continue to impact human health, natural systems, and infrastructure, creating new costs for individuals, businesses, and governments; and

WHEREAS, 27 Oregon and Washington communities have passed resolutions addressing fossil fuel transport and export, and hundreds of public officials, including the governors of Oregon and Washington, state and federal agencies, tribes, health organizations, religious leaders and other community leaders, have recognized the harms presented by fossil fuels to the environment and Northwest communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKIE, OREGON, THAT:

1. The City of Milwaukie supports climate testing in conducting reviews for approval of proposed fossil fuel infrastructure projects
 - to consider effects on climate change when reviewing fossil fuel infrastructure permit applications; and
 - to consider health impacts on environmental justice communities when reviewing fossil fuel infrastructure permit applications; and
 - to consider impacts on indigenous Tribes' ability to practice their traditional customs when reviewing fossil fuel infrastructure permit applications; and
 - to consider economic viability of fossil fuel infrastructure in a global economy that is on a path to limiting climate change to well below 2 degrees C when reviewing fossil fuel infrastructure permit applications; and
 - to consider the cumulative negative impacts of the above criteria, combined with other environmental impacts under the jurisdiction of State agencies in comparison to potential benefits; and
 - to deny the issuance of a permit to the proposed fossil fuel infrastructure if the negative impacts outweigh the benefits.

Introduced and adopted by the City Council on 4/4/17.

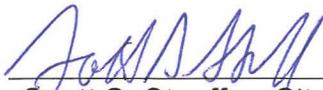
This resolution is effective on 4/4/17.



Mark Gamba, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Jordan Ramis PC



Scott S. Stauffer, City Recorder

City Attorney