

Zenith Letter Talking points:

- 1) The City of Portland must deny all permits and pressure DEQ not to grant air quality permits for the Zenith facility that is incompatible with City Land Use and other city policy and is a tremendous risk to our community and collective futures.
- 2) City has rightfully declared a Climate Emergency and has policies on the books for not allowing expansion or new fossil fuel infrastructure especially export facilities not for regional markets. These fossil fuels go against efforts to reduce carbon emissions and slow climate change which is one of the greatest existential crises of our time.
- 3) Zenith has a history of deceit both in how it got into Portland in the first place and subsequent communications on what they are transporting and what their expansion plans entail or are to be used for. Beyond Portland there is a well-documented history of deceit and irresponsible behaviors of this company in other parts of the country and world as well.
- 4) Zenith transports dangerous tar sands Bakken crude oil, one of the dirtiest, dangerous and energy-intensive fossil fuels on the planet. Extraction in Alberta has left hideous, toxic sites and led to destruction of boreal forests critical for carbon sequestration. These sites have endangered waterways and underground reservoirs and threatened the lives of nearby residents and Indigenous tribes.
- 5) Transport of these highly flammable as well as heavy (disastrous for spillage into waterways) crude oil products continues as a danger to communities and waterways all along its routes. Inferno derailments have led to them being called 'bomb trains' because of their explosive capacities with 1-2 mile blast zones of destruction and deaths. Already the Pacific Northwest has experienced close calls with derailments both in Mosier (which was lucky the fires and toxic smoke happened on a windless day given proximity to town center and school) as well as within Portland City limits (derailment without explosion).
- 6) Coming to and through Portland these trains endanger the Columbia River as well as Northeast, North and parts of Northwest Portland. They travel very close to Roosevelt High School.
- 7) They then cause extreme air particulate and noxious pollution as they are openly "vented" leading to huge air quality concerns in these same neighborhoods which already have higher rates of respiratory illness and air quality concerns. That these also happen to be primarily working class and community of color areas contributes to environmental injustice.
- 8) Furthermore the Zenith facility is in a liquefaction zone that would likely guarantee explosions, fires, spills, and nightmarish results in an anticipated subduction zone earthquake and yet both the company and surrounding communities are woefully unprepared for such a disaster and the risks and associated costs would fall upon Portland and the surrounding community.