

To: The Attorneys at Stoel Rives LLC
From: Extinction Rebellion PDX and Allies
RE: Zenith Energy, Fueling the climate crisis

8/27/2021

According to your website, your firm claims to care about the environment and the climate crisis in particular. "The attorneys and employees of Stoel Rives remain committed to meeting the needs of today without compromising those of tomorrow". In no way is defending and supporting Zenith Energy's fossil fuel infrastructure business consistent with this statement.

On the basis of the recent IPCC report, the UN Secretary General has declared "code red for humanity", because of the climate crisis. We must all, in Portland and around the globe, do everything possible to stop the things that cause global warming. Ending our dependence on fossil fuels is critical if humans, and those we share this planet with, can survive. Now is the time for drastic actions, we do not have 5 to 15 years to start moving away from fossil fuels. At the recent DEQ hearing a Zenith representative claimed that Zenith is considering moving away from fossil fuels "as the market dictates" in maybe 5 to 15 years. 5 to 15 years? It will be far too late by then.

While it is important that everyone has fair legal representation, it does not follow that corporations that are killing the planet, starting with marginalized communities, deserve your legal representation. Zenith Energy has been expanding its oil by rail infrastructure, added new rail platforms and increased crude oil throughput by over 11 fold. That increased throughput has nothing to do with renewable fuels, it is all about fossil fuels. That sounds, looks and smells like an increase in fossil fuel infrastructure. Have you spent time at the site? Especially on a hot day? The fumes are not fun. It is making people living in the area and along the route sick. If there is a derailment in Portland it will destroy neighborhoods, predominantly BIPOC and low income communities.

When, not if, the earthquake hits the Portland area the resulting oil spills and explosions will be catastrophic, according to the recent CEI Hub Earthquake report commissioned by Multnomah County. This is part of why the Multnomah County commissioners and many state legislators have come out in strong opposition to Zenith Energy's fossil fuel operations.

Is 117 degrees hot enough for you? Are the smoke filled skies not making you sick? Do you want to see Portland's rivers destroyed by spills from Zenith Energy's facilities? How many more have to die before companies like Stoel Rives will take this crisis seriously. Do any of you have children? Grandchildren? Do you want them to have a livable future? Is the income you receive from Zenith really worth more than our children's futures?

"Climate change represents not only an existential threat to humanity but also material financial risk to investors." (a quote from Morningstar report). Setting aside the fact that without humanity there are no investors, surely the very knowledgeable people who work at Stoel Rives can recognize that supporting the expansion of fossil fuels is a bad business practice.

Zenith Energy is not compatible with the City of Portland's stated goals of reducing greenhouse gases, and not expanding fossil fuel infrastructure.

We do not believe that all of the humans that work at Stoel Rives really want to be on the wrong side of this. Do the right thing, stop defending and representing Zenith Energy's fossil fuel infrastructure projects.

Thank you,

Extinction Rebellion PDX and Many Allies