

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: James Davidson
PO Box 2946
Portland, OR 97208-2946

Re: USACE NWP-2020-00383: I Support NEXT Renewable Fuels and Port Westward Site 1

Dear Mr. Davidson:

I support NEXT Renewable Fuels (NWP-2020-00383) and their Clean Water Act permit. Specifically, I support Alternative 1, Port Westward Site 1.

Port Westward offers the most suitable site for this project. As the Army Corps is well aware, the Port Westward site is already zoned industrial, and the property NEXT will build on is zoned for industrial development. At this location, NEXT will not require construction of a new dock in the Columbia River or deepening of the river to provide a turning basin. Other alternative sites would have too great of impacts on the Columbia River. There are already appropriate rail facilities and the Draft EIS shows that the community will not be threatened as a result of NEXT developing the Port Westward site.

The facility itself is designed to minimize water impacts, including building sufficient berms to contain any incidences that could occur. NEXT will install Best Available Control Technology to minimize regulated emissions. And NEXT will contribute to the net decrease in greenhouse gas emissions by eliminating more than 7 million metric tons of greenhouse gas every year of operation.

During construction, NEXT will create more than 3,000 union jobs that will prioritize local hiring, which includes the southern Washington union members. During operation, NEXT will create more than 240 family-wage jobs that the local talent pool is qualified to fill. The facility will generate more than \$5.5 million in Port fees. Local regional economic benefits will support services like public safety, education, libraries, road repair and waterway navigation safety. For these reasons and more, NXT has earned the support of the Washington State Building Trades Council and the regional Longview Kelso Building Trades Council. Members of the LKBTC have been supporting this project for more than five years and have actively participated in local, state and federal permitting comment hearings.

Port Westward is on the Oregon side of the Oregon-Washington border. But just across the river is Cowlitz County. Cowlitz County is home to the Port of Longview and a southern Washington talent pool that supports the port, manufacturing industries, maintenance companies, union workers and heavy industrial support services. NEXT's clean fuel facility is an opportunity to expand our capabilities and deploy our talent pool to build green economy infrastructure. Our area will provide qualified union workers, workforce housing opportunities, retail and recreation opportunities, and industry expertise.

This is an amazing opportunity for the region, and we urge the Army Corps of Engineers to select the Port Westward alternative and approve a permit for NEXT to develop the Port Westward Site 1.

Sincerely,

[NAME]
[CITY] [STATE]