

## TODD COLEMAN TALKING POINTS – VANCOUVER CITY COUNCIL

(488 words - 3 minutes)

- Good evening Mayor Leavitt, council members.
- As you know, my name is Todd Coleman, and I'm CEO of the Port of Vancouver.
- Tonight, I'm here to ask that you do not vote on this resolution.
- Passage of any resolution, for or against the project, prior to completion of the environmental review would be premature.
- The state of Washington established a rigorous and comprehensive process to address the siting of major energy facilities by creating EFSEC; and we need to let that process work.
- To vote without knowing all the facts doesn't make sense. Less than a week ago, at the EFSEC land use hearing, the city's own attorney argued that a determination on the project's zoning compliance can't be made until the environmental review process is complete. So, how can the council make a decision tonight?
- In addition, this resolution ignores the reality that crude oil will be transported on the BNSF mainline that runs through Vancouver regardless of the city's position.
- Whether you believe it's a good thing or a bad thing, the city does not regulate interstate commerce, nor does it control the types of cargoes that move on our railways.
- This resolution asks us to overlook the realities of crude oil transport and pretend that by "just saying no" we can make it all go away.
- A more productive approach would be for all of us to work collectively to ensure the safe transit of these types of commodities, putting appropriate regulations and robust government oversight in place to protect our communities and the environment.

- But that's not what this resolution does. Instead, a vote for this resolution is a vote against this community's ability to attract private sector business.  
Washington's public ports were created to promote trade and build stronger communities through economic development. And like the private sector, ports depend on a business climate that offers predictability and fairness. A vote for this resolution puts that at risk.
- At the Port of Vancouver, we've been handling all types of commodities, including petroleum products, for more than a century. And we're doing it safely.
- If we were to handle only those cargoes that everyone agreed were acceptable – according to their own individual beliefs and opinions – we'd cease to exist.
- We'd no longer be a major economic development engine for Southwest Washington – or a critical transportation gateway to world markets for U.S. products.
- You can't have it both ways. You can't have a thriving port and all the good things that come with that success – and then attempt to pick and choose among cargoes. Circumventing process, regardless of what you see as good intentions, not only damages the port's ability to compete on the regional and global stages – but it closes Vancouver's doors to business. All business.
- Again, our request is simple. Don't vote on this resolution. Let the EFSEC process work. See what solutions and safeguards are presented, and then make a fully informed decision.