

Environmentalists urge Astoria to oppose oil terminal

Oil-by-rail project planned for Vancouver

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

Local and regional environmental groups asked the Astoria City Council Monday night to join with other Pacific Northwest cities to oppose an oil terminal they say threatens the health of the Columbia River estuary.

The Tesoro Savage oil-by-rail terminal at Washington's Port of Vancouver, first announced in 2013, would be the largest oil-by-rail project in North America. Five mile-and-a-half long trains would carry a daily output of 360,000 barrels of crude oil. The oil would be put on oil tankers that would then cross the Columbia River Bar, according to nonprofit environmental group Columbia Riverkeeper. The project could "dramatically increase" the danger of

an oil spill on the Columbia River from trains coming into the terminal and the vessels going downstream, said Dan Serres, the group's conservation director.

The City Council had opposed a liquefied natural gas and pipeline project in Warrenton in 2015, Serres said. He spoke Monday seeking a similar resolution, this time for the oil-by-rail project.

"That statement (in 2015) resonated statewide," Serres said. "... It marked this area as being a place where people like to help the river."

Vancouver, Spokane, Portland and Hood River have already spoken out against the project. Washington Gov. Jay Inslee will make the final decision on whether to approve or deny the project, a decision he is expected to make sometime late this year or next year.

Of chief concern to Serres and others opposed to the project are the trains themselves.

"This is a new thing for the United States," Serres said. "We haven't moved oil by train in this volume ever



Port of Vancouver

Environmentalists want the Astoria City Council to oppose an oil-by-rail terminal at the Port of Vancouver.

before. In 2012, this started to ramp up. In 2013 we started to see trains derail."

He pointed to an oil train that derailed and caught fire in Mosier, a town in the Columbia River Gorge, last year. That derailment and the small oil spill in the river that resulted was a "taste" of what could happen elsewhere, he said.

Jan Mitchell, who serves on the Astoria Planning Commission, urged the council to join the other cities in opposing the project.

"Anything that happens to the river upstream, happens to us," she said.

City councilors asked questions and expressed concern over the safety issues, but Councilor Bruce Jones,

a retired U.S. Coast Guard commander, pointed out that refined petroleum products move up and down the river at least five days a week, if not on a daily basis.

There are products the Pacific Northwest requires for its economy and industry to function, he said. If these products weren't being moved on the river, they would be in trucks on the highways.

"I think it's a complex issue," he said. "Petroleum products moving on the river, it's easy to say this is real black and white, it's bad. But then again compared to the alternatives, it moves safely on the river now."

The tankers that carry petroleum products or other hazardous chemicals must pass stringent regulations. When Jones was captain of the port, he said he was more worried about an oil spill from a grain ship than from a petroleum tanker. They carry massive amounts of fuel and are not maintained to the same standards required of the petroleum tankers.

"The grain business, they operate on very small margins," Jones said, "... so some of those grain ships sitting out there are real pieces of work."

The river is a highway, Jones said. "It's a place of beauty and natural resources and fish and sea lions and it's also a highway and it has been ever since before the first white people came here. It was a commercial highway."

He said he respects the work Columbia Riverkeeper does to protect the environmental health of the river. He wants to look closely at the project's environmental impact statement, current safety regulations related to oil tankers, and talk to the bar pilots who would be tasked with guiding these tankers back and forth across the dangerous system of sandbars at the Columbia River's mouth before giving his approval to a resolution opposing the oil-by-rail terminal project.

City staff will work with Serres to craft a resolution to bring before the City Council in August.

Astoria hires private landscaper for parks

City still debating how to fund parks

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

With plans to further discuss how to fund parks into the future, the Astoria City Council approved a contract Monday night with Greensmith Landscaping to maintain key parks often used by tourists during the summer months.

"This is a way right now that we're able to keep the level of service that's expected in our tourist-related facilities and continue on this summer," City Manager Brett Estes said.

The \$99,216 bid Greensmith submitted will

go to maintaining 13 parks, including the Doughboy Monument on Marine Drive, the Garden of Surging Waves next to City Hall, and parks along the Astoria Riverwalk. The money comes from the city's Promote Astoria fund.

A resident pointed out that for nearly \$100,000, the city could create a full-time position to help the Parks and Recreation Department maintain parks.

City councilors and Estes replied that the money will pay for a crew of landscapers using the company's own equipment and includes repeat visits to sites. The Parks Department currently has two employees tasked with mowing all of the city parks. The money for the work by Greensmith comes from the city's Promote Astoria fund. This money has to go

to tourist-related items, Estes said. It could not be used to pay for a new full-time employee at the Parks Department.

Estes said there had been some discussion about whether to wait on assigning this work — Greensmith was the only company that responded with a bid — until the City Council's next meeting when they will discuss future ways to fund the parks and bring on more staff. But, Estes and city staff concluded, the parks need maintenance now as summer crowds begin to show up and the Promote Astoria money had already been set aside for this work.

In other business: • The City Council also held a second reading of the Advance Astoria ordinance. This plan outlines a five-year economic strategy, in part

by looking at the clusters of businesses that already exist in Astoria and seeking ways to expand them as well as develop new businesses and industrial sites across the city.

• The council approved cost of living adjustments to management and confidential employees (a 2.5 percent adjustment); the public safety group employees (1.5 percent), fire employees (2.5 percent) and part time and seasonal groups, accounting for increases to Oregon's minimum wage. The city is still in the midst of contract negotiations with public works and general/parks employee groups.

• Councilors approved a liquor license application from Turtle Rock Cellars Inc., doing business as Swakane Winery at 240 10th Street.

Managing the proposed transportation package will cost \$115.2 million

State could hire 60 new employees

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Three state agencies expect to hire 60 positions and spend \$115.2 million to execute a proposed \$5.3 billion statewide transportation funding bill.

The spending plan is separate from the greater transportation funding legislation, House Bill 2017. Both bills are headed to a vote on the floor of the state House later this week. The Joint Committee on Ways and Means on Monday voted to recommend passage of the spending plan, called House Bill 5045.

The positions and agency spending limits cover levying and collecting new taxes and fees, managing and reporting on transportation projects, overseeing an electric vehicle rebate program and processing a surge of storm water permits.

The spending bill includes:

- \$110.9 million and 50

positions for the state Department of Transportation for direct project costs and project-related studies in the first six months of the next two-year state budget cycle,

• \$3.9 million and eight positions for the state Department of Revenue to levy new taxes on payroll to pay for transit, car and bicycle excises taxes and hikes in the gas tax.

• \$389,122 and two positions for the Department of Environmental Quality to establish a rebate program for low- and moderate-income residents who purchase low-emission and electric vehicles and to handle a greater workload with an influx of storm water permitting.

The fate of the transportation package remains in question after 16 Democrats sent a letter to House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, Saturday suggesting the funding plan may be in peril if lawmakers refuse to raise new revenue before the July 10 constitutionally-mandated end of the legislative session. The Democrats want to use the money for K-12 education and general government operations.

Suicide prevention bill heads to the House

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The state House will consider a bill modeled after a law enacted by Washington state voters in 2016 to allow loved ones and law enforcement to obtain an emergency order to block a suicidal person from access to deadly weapons.

The House Committee on Rules voted 5-2 to recommend passage of the bill. The Senate approved the bill 17-11 in May.

State Sen. Brian Boquist, R-Dallas, proposed the bill to

create extreme risk protection orders as a way to prevent the kind of suicides he has experienced as a father and a U.S. Army Special Forces veteran. Boquist's 31-year-old son, a U.S. Navy veteran, committed suicide Feb. 16, 2016, in the midst of the Legislature's session. Boquist wrote a statement read by Senate President Peter Courtney the day after the suicide that said his son, Seth Sprague, had "never fully recovered from the tragedy of war."

In an emotional floor speech in May, Boquist said that three members of his com-

mand killed themselves during the second Gulf War in Iraq.

"Everyone wants to promote this as a gun bill. It's not," Boquist said of the bill's opponents.

"We are only trying to target those individuals who want to commit suicide and may murder a spouse, children or roommate in house. That is how we wrote it."

Connecticut has had a similar law since 1999. Several hundred protection orders have been issued since then, Boquist said. It's "credited with saving lives" and has been upheld by the courts, he said.

About 40,000 people take their lives nationwide each year, according to federal statistics. Oregon has one of the highest suicide rates in the nation, including among veterans, Boquist said.

The National Rifle Association and the Oregon Firearms Federation continued to oppose the legislation Monday during a hearing in the House Committee on Rules. Representatives from both groups said the bill denies gun owners due process and provides no mental health services to address the root cause of suicide.

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

TV LISTINGS

Evening listings
TUESDAY

TUESDAY EVENING												JULY 4	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) Everyday Heroes		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	The Middle	Fresh Off the Boat	Black-ish	Black-ish	Amer. Housewife	The Middle	KATU News (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News		Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	The Middle	Fresh Off the Boat	Black-ish	Black-ish	Amer. Housewife	The Middle	KOMO 4 News	(35) Jimmy Kimmel
5	KING	(5) NBC Nightly News	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	Evening	Macy's Fireworks	The annual celebration of the Fourth of July. (N)			Macy's Fireworks		KING 5 News	(35) Tonight Show
6	KOIN	(6) KOIN Local 6 (N)	CBS Evening News	Extra	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Rogue"		Bull "Light My Fire"		NCIS: New Orleans "Follow the Money"		KOIN 6 News (N)	(35) Colbert
7	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News (N)	CBS Evening News	The Insider	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Rogue"		Seafair Summer "July 4th" (L)				KIRO News (N)	(35) Colbert
8	KGW	(8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)		Live at 7 (N)	Inside Edition	Macy's Fireworks	The annual celebration of the Fourth of July. (N)			Macy's Fireworks		KGW News (N)	(35) Tonight Show
9	KRCW	(9) Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Modern Family	Modern Family	The Flash "Shade"	Whose Line Is It? "Whose Line Is It?"	Two and a Half	Two and a Half	News at 10 (N)	Two and a Half	Two and a Half	Met Your Mother
10	KOPB	(10) This Old House	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		A Capitol Fourth	Celebrate the country's 241st birthday! (N)	A Capitol Fourth	Celebrate the country's 241st birthday!			Anne Morrow	3, 2, 1 Fireworks
12	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News (N)		Family Feud	Family Feud	Lethal Weapon "Surf N Turf"	The Mick	Brooklyn 99	10 O'Clock News (N)			News (N)	2 Broke Girls
13	KPDx	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's News (N)		9 O'Clock News (N)		Family Guy	Family Guy	American Dad!	Cleveland Show
14	KCPQ	(14) MLS Soccer Seattle Sounders FC at Colorado Rapids (L)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Post-match	The Simpsons	The Mick	Brooklyn 99	Q13 News at 10 (N)		Q13 News (N)	Lethal Weapon
20	TBS	(20) Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Wrecked	Wrecked		Conan	
22	KZLN	(22) Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Friends	Friends Pt. 2 of 2	Modern Family	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half	Two and a Half
29	ESPN2	(29) (5:00) MLB Baseball Boston Red Sox at Texas Rangers (L)		SportsCenter		SportsCenter		SportsCenter		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)	
30	ESPN2	(30) DRL Drone Racing		Hot Dog Eat Contest "2017"		DRL Drone Racing		DRL Drone Racing		MLB Baseball Pittsburgh Pirates at Philadelphia Phillies			
31	NICK	(31) Henry Danger	Henry Danger	The Thundermans	The Thundermans	NickyRickyDicky	Game Shakers	Full House	Full House	Full House	Full House	Friends	Friends
32	DISN	(32) Andi Mack	K.C. Undercover	Bizaardvark	Stuck in Middle	K.C. Undercover	K.C. Undercover	A Fan's Guide	Liv and Maddie	K.C. Undercover	K.C. Undercover	Bunk'd	Jessie
34	FAM	(34) ★★ The Sorcerer's Apprentice ("10) Alfred Molina, Jay Baruchel, Nicolas Cage.		★★ Twilight (2008, Drama) Robert Pattinson, Billy Burke, Kristen Stewart.		★★★ Zero Dark Thirty ("12) Jason Clarke, Joel Edgerton, Jessica Chastain.						The 700 Club	
35	FMC	(35) (5:00) ★★ Zero Dark Thirty ("12) Jason Clarke, Joel Edgerton, Jessica Chastain.				(10) FXM Presents	★★★ Zero Dark Thirty ("12) Jason Clarke, Joel Edgerton, Jessica Chastain.						(40) FXM Presents
36	LIFE	(36) Little Women: LA		Little Women: LA		Little Women: LA - A Little Extra	Little Women: LA	Little Women: LA		Little Women: Atlanta		Little Women: LA	
38	ROOT	(38) (3:30) MLB Baseball Post-game		WPT Poker		Poker Night	MLS Soccer Seattle Sounders FC at Colorado Rapids			MLB Baseball Kansas City Royals at Seattle Mariners			
39	FST	(39) (4:30) UFC 70: Nations Collide		MLB's Best (N)		MLB Whiparound (L)		Speak for Yourself		BIG3 Basketball			
43	COKE	(43) (4:00) ★★ Saving Private Ryan ('98) Matt Damon, Edward Burns, Tom Hanks.		★★★ Forrest Gump (1994, Comedy/Drama) Sally Field, Gary Sinise, Tom Hanks.									Movie
44	SP1E	(44) Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Daniel Tosh: People Pleaser	
45	HIST	(45) America: Story of Us "Millennium"		Forged in Fire "Khandia"		Forged in Fire: Cutting Deeper	"Japanese Katana/ Ethiopian Shotel/ Scottish Claymore" (N)					(05) Forged in Fire "Nepalese Kukri"	
46	A&E	(46) (5:00) ★★ Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides ("11) Johnny Depp.		★★ Armageddon (1998, Adventure) Liv Tyler, Ben Affleck, Bruce Willis.									
47	TLC	(47) Untold Stories "I Hate Doctors"		Untold Stories of the E.R. "Heeled!"		Untold Stories "Cop Shocker"		Untold Stories "Beyond Recognition"		Untold Stories "Campstove Stuffing"		Untold Stories of the E.R. "Heeled!"	
48	DISC	(48) D. Catch "Back to the Killing Season"		Deadliest Catch "Hurricane Alley"		Deadliest Catch "Arctic Mega Storm"		Deadliest Catch (N)		Deadliest Catch		Deadliest Catch	
49	WICKED	(49) Wicked Tuna "Hickory Dicky Docked"		Wicked Tuna "Hissy Fit"		Wicked Tuna "Purple Rain"		Wicked Tuna "The End Is Nigh"		Wicked Tuna "The Time is Now"		Wicked Tuna "The End Is Nigh"	
50	TNT	(50) Animal Kingdom "Eat What You Kill"		Animal Kingdom "Karma"		Animal Kingdom "Bleed for It"		Animal Kingdom "Broken Boards"		Animal "Forgive Us Our Trespasses"		Law & Order "Charity Case"	
51	A&E	(51) ★★ National Lampoon's Vacation ("83) Beverly D'Angelo, Chevy Chase.		★★ Vegas Vacation (1997, Comedy) Beverly D'Angelo, Randy Quaid, Chevy Chase.		WWE Smackdown! WWE superstars do battle in long-running rivalries.		Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family
52	USA	(52) NCIS		Chopped "Hot Doggin'"		Chopped "Cookin' For A Cookout" (N)		Chopped "Grill Game"				Chopped "Thrill of the Grill"	
53	FOOD	(53) Chopped		Fixer "A Veteran Home Makeover"		Fixer Upper "The Floating Fixer Upper"		House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters
54	HGTV	(54) Beachfront Hunt	Beachfront Hunt	Beachfront Hunt	Beachfront Hunt	Fixer Upper "The Floating Fixer Upper"		House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters
56	FX	(56) ★★ Captain America: The Winter Soldier (2014, Action) Scarlett Johansson, Sebastian Stan, Chris Evans.		★★★ Captain America: The First Avenger (2011, Action) Hugo Weaving, Hayley Atwell, Chris Evans.		Green Lantern							
57	CNN	(57) Eighties "Video Killed the Radio Star"		The Eighties "The Reagan Revolution"		The Eighties "Tear Down This Wall"		The Eighties "Green is Good"		The Eighties "The Tech Boom"		CNN Newsroom	
58	FNC	(58) The Five		Hannity		Tucker Carlson Tonight		The Five		Hannity		Tucker Carlson Tonight	
61	CNBC	(61) Shark Tank		The Profit "Windward Boatshop"		The Profit "Swim by Chuck Handy"		The Profit "Overtone Acoustics"		The Profit "Ashtae Products"		Paid Program	Paid Program
63	BRAV	(63) (5:30) To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced	
64	TCM	(64) (5:00) Yankee Doodle Dandy		(15) ★★ 1776 (1972, Musical) David Ford, Howard da Silva, William Daniels.						(15) ★★ The Music Man ('62) Shirley Jones, Buddy Hackett, Robert Preston.			
65	SYFY	(65) The Twilight Zone	The Twilight Zone	The Twilight Zone	The Twilight Zone	The Twilight Zone	The Twilight Zone	The Twilight Zone	The Twilight Zone	The Twilight Zone	The Twilight Zone	The Twilight Zone	The Twilight Zone
69	RFD	(69) (5:30) Cattlemen	Chasing-Madison	Downunder Horseman.		Chris Cox	Rural Eve. News	Ag PhD		Cattlemen to Cattlemen		Chasing-Madison	Product Showcase