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January 24, 2014

Governor Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

We have attached a copy of a letter from the Board of Directors of Vancouver's Downtown Association written November 12, 2013, to Mr. Stephen Posner. It was our 'weigh in' on the proposed Tesoro contract to move oil from the Dakotas by rail through our city to storage tanks at the Port of Vancouver and then onto ocean-going tankers. We wanted our plea to the EFSEC decision makers to 'do no harm' to be on the record. And, we understand that the ultimate decision will fall to you.

In the months since we sent the letter, our board has become more wary of the potential project. We are finding that the very 'possibility' of the project has cast a shadow over investment and projects in our downtown. And, we have learned that the health risks that we may suffer are very significant. This decision may negatively affect property values and investment in our city center for years to come.

We implore you to put yourself in the shoes of residents and businesses, investors and visitors, and our stakeholders both young and old.

- Do we know enough about the health risks and would you be willing to take them?
- Are we allowing the resource to be extracted too soon? Will there be better ways to access it and then move it in the future if we allow the time to let science and innovators meet the challenge?
- And, finally.....please be absolutely sure that no harm will be done to our downtown and its neighbors.

Our nonprofit is a Main Street Program affiliate. We have 180 members. Our membership is made up of small and large businesses, property owners, downtown residents, and downtown fans. Our city center has enjoyed a rebound of investment and confidence in the past 6 years. Downtown Vancouver is attracting new businesses, has recently been named an Innovation Zone (IPZ) community as a tool for economic development, and is seeing many signs of recovery.

As you are aware, our waterfront is slated for a tremendous redevelopment that will take a former industrial site to a bustling mixed use development with parks, water access, offices, and world class design. All things are working together for good, and we are proud of our part in this positive change. And, we thank you for sticking up for traditional downtowns!

Please add our voice to those who are worried about this project.....its timing and its potential impacts.

Respectfully,

*Leone M. Rafferty*

Leone M. Rafferty  
Executive Director, Vancouver's Downtown Association  
On behalf of our Board of Directors