Oregon Nurses Association

2018 House of Delegates

Resolution

Opposition to Jordon Cove Natural Gas Export Terminal and Pacific Connector Pipeline

Recommended Actions:

Send letters to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Washington D.C., the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Portland OR, and the Department of State Lands (DSL), Salem OR, asking for denial of any and all permitting allowances for the Pembina proposal for the Jordon Cove Natural Gas Energy Project and the Pacific Connector Pipeline.

Whereas, the Oregon Nurses Association, in keeping with the American Nurses Association’s 2008 Resolution on Global Climate Change, recognizes the massive threat to human health and safety from global climate change. Current scientific evidence and research conducted by health institutes, environmental groups, higher education institutes and the US Government clearly document the health and safety threats posed by global climate change on a massive human and environmental scale (1). The Jordon Cove Natural Gas Energy Project and the Pacific Connector Pipeline will increase these threats;

Whereas, global climate change is attributed to human activity, primarily through the burning fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas) which releases the cause agents carbon dioxide (CO2) and methane (CH4), the primary component of natural gas); and

Whereas, the human health impacts of climate change include but are not limited to injuries, fatalities, and mental health impacts from severe weather, rising sea levels, floods; heat related illness and deaths from extreme heat; asthma, cardiovascular disease, COPD and respiratory allergies from air pollution and increased allergens; increases in vector-borne diseases from changes in vector ecology; increases in waterborne diseases from changes in water quality; malnutrition, diarrheal disease, forced migration, civil conflict and mental health impacts from environmental degradation and impacts on water and food supply; (2) and

Whereas, Pembina, a Canadian energy company, proposes to construct, by eminent domain, a 235 mile pipeline through private property with a 90 foot wide permanent right of way which will transport highly volatile fracked gas impacting 400 streams and rivers, thus potentially endangering communities, indigenous cultural lands, watersheds, and forests with fire, explosions, and toxicants; and

Whereas, the massive export terminal will be constructed in liquefaction tsunami zones placing Coos Bay and other communities at risk from fire and explosions, and damaging estuary and ocean fish industries; and

Whereas, the Jordon Cove Natural Gas Export Terminal and the Pacific Connector Pipeline would become the largest carbon dioxide (CO2), highly explosive methane (CH4) polluter, and climate disruptor in Oregon. Fugitive methane emissions from U.S. drilling and fracking operations, storage, and ancillary infrastructure are higher than previously supposed (3); and methane is a major green house gas; and the Jordan Cove project would greatly increase the incidence of climate health impacts (4); therefore, be it

Resolved, the Oregon Nurses Association requests the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Oregon Department of Environment Quality, and the Department of State Lands deny any and all construction permits for the Jordan Cove Energy Project and the Pacific Connector Pipeline; and

Resolved, the Oregon Nurses Association is a professional association and a labor union committed to ensuring strong workforce standards and employment opportunities in our communities and thus recognizes the Jordan Cove projects connection to providing living wage jobs in the region. However, we affirm that the
adverse long-term impacts and costs to both health and our climate significantly outweighs any limited duration job creation benefit to be gained locally.