

From: Seth Alan Woolley [<mailto:seth@swoolley.org>]
Sent: Monday, February 18, 2013 7:57 PM
To: Brennan Patrick H
Subject: CRC/BRC testimony

I read this text earlier today. Here it is for the official record:

I'm Seth Woolley of the Portland Green Party and I rode my bicycle here from Grant Park in Portland.

The Pacific Green Party was formed over twenty years ago to support the four principles of Sustainable Deep Green Ecology, Grassroots Democracy, Non-violence, and Social and Economic Justice.

After evaluating the proposed Columbia River Crossing, now re-named the I-5 BRP to subvert a growing public awareness of CRC problems, our members have universally opposed the project in all forms it has been discussed.

There is also major skepticism of the so-called "Common Sense Alternative" as continuing a tradition in the wrong direction -- more cars -- even while the youngest are driving less and cars are becoming obsolete.

The Portland Green Party understands that going after federal funds for the sake that they might exist to be diverted here is a strategy taken holistically as doomed to fail for everybody -- it hurts all in the long run.

Lobbying for projects to maximize dollars by creative fund matching, even if it worked, fails to recognize the deep ecological crisis most of you appear to have no desire to correct and are willing to ignore.

Without a massive redirection of funds toward local projects to transition our cities and towns toward sustainable transportation methods, we WILL experience societal stagnation and an eventual collapse.

We MUST be an example for the world and champion the critical mass that is our extensive local bicycle infrastructure and expanding high-wage knowledge sectors.

If anybody here thinks that building our way out of congestion is a good idea, remember that congestion is ALWAYS a temporary problem.

Congestion goes away on its own by natural shifts in transportation patterns by congestion-incented housing transitions and is alleviated much more rapidly by urban infill development -- a policy Metro is embracing to great effect.

Our built environment must change to correct temporary congestion issues -- congestion that ACTUALLY represents a misallocation of resources by devoting them to pavement built too far out from the urban core.

The CRC is a solution LOOKING for the WRONG problem. The REAL problem is that the earth has a finite amount of resources aside from direct solar inputs. Congestion is never the real problem when we examine fundamentally.

For too many years we were addicted to the revelation of exothermic oxidizing reactions -- that is: the "burning away" -- of fossil fuels.

It would be our economic foundation, a base that we now know is unsound.

Destroying billions of years of solar-fueled chemical bonds in a thirst for power is not going to lead humanity to its salvation.

Understand that we can make decisions without thinking of all commodities as there for the taking -- yes we can decide to ignore the status quo and live without the current economic assumptions.

That is what I hope you all can consider for our future generation. Your children, and their children, and so on, will later thank you, even if they never came to know what transpired in this room.

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