



Yamhill County  
DEMOCRATS

# Resolution

## **Yamhill County Democratic Central Committee Opposes LNG Pipeline Through Yamhill County**

The Yamhill County Democrats express the following concerns pertaining to the proposed liquefied natural gas terminals on the Columbia River near Astoria, Oregon, and the pipeline(s) connecting those terminals with the north-south gas pipelines in the Willamette Valley and Central Oregon.

**WHEREAS**, building the Bradwood Landing and Warrenton terminals, and dredging the Columbia River for tanker access, will have a negative impact on the ecological balance of that river; impact private and commercial marine traffic, and force unfunded mandates; security, fire protection, ecological and invasive species monitoring, etc.; and

**WHEREAS**, the imported LNG would be transported 200+ miles as high pressure non-odorized gas, 23+ miles across Yamhill County, in 36 inch diameter, 1400+ psi. mainlines, to Williams Pipeline near Molalla and TransCanada's GTN pipeline system near Madras in Wasco County; and

**WHEREAS**, the construction and maintenance of each pipeline will result in easements across private property of unwilling landowners, that can only be achieved by the use of eminent domain; and

**WHEREAS**, in Yamhill County each pipeline will cross 114 private properties, seven municipal water districts, 10+ rivers and streams, and 54 other water bodies, permanently impacting the natural resources along the pipeline; including plants, animals, fish, some of which are endangered species; and

**WHEREAS**, each easement will cross 23 miles, nearly all of which is prime agriculture and forest land, and would result in permanent damage to drainage and irrigation systems, and the property and crops of landowners in Yamhill county, with a minimum loss, at current values, of \$1,000,000+ per year per pipeline; and

**WHEREAS**, as reported by the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, the proposed pipelines will traverse an area which has numerous and active fault lines, landslides, and earthquakes, raising the possibility of damage as indicated by winter 2007 landslides, which closed highways between the Willamette Valley and the Oregon Coast, through the Coast Range; and

**WHEREAS**, the areas that these pipelines pass through are served by rural fire protection districts, that do not have the training, resources or equipment to protect citizens from fire and explosion in, or anywhere near, the 1500 foot pipeline blast zone; and

**WHEREAS**, this project will increase the amount of imported fossil fuel to the United States, thus continuing our reliance on foreign sources of energy, and contributing to perpetuation and use of non renewable sources of energy, at the expense of our development of, and investment in, alternative renewable energy sources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oregon Department of Energy has determined that these pipelines are not needed, and recent gas industry studies (Navigant study) have shown that North America has abundant supplies of natural gas that could last decades; and would cost many times less than imported LNG; and

**WHEREAS**, as the price of imported LNG continues to rise, we have seen every indication that these pipelines and terminals will be used to export, overseas, North American natural gas, without approval and fair compensation of affected landowners and citizens of Oregon;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Yamhill County Democratic Central Committee(YCDCC):

**Opposes** the construction of LNG terminal(s) on the Columbia River, and the accompanying pipeline(s) proposed to cross the county and connect those terminals with the Williams and TransCanada pipeline in Molalla and Central Oregon, respectively; and

**Finds** that the use of eminent domain for the purpose of private development of these pipeline easements, or rights-of-way, should not be accepted in Yamhill county because private development should never be forced upon unwilling landowners without a compelling public need; and

**Urges** the Governor and State Land Board to use their powers to disallow these pipelines.

**ADOPTED** by the Yamhill County Democratic Central Committee on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2009.