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Columbia County Board of Commissioners  
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230 Strand Street Room 338  
St. Helens, OR 97051

*Submitted electronically*

**Subject: City of St. Helens Support for the Port Westward Re-Zoning Application**

Dear Commissioners:

**We urge you to approve the Compatibility Remand component of the Port Westward re-zoning application.**

The issue of compatibility with surrounding farmland has been fully addressed by the Port of Columbia County. The singular issue for remand was compatibility with adjacent or surrounding agricultural uses. The Port has overwhelmingly demonstrated this in multiple ways:

- The Port has worked together with interested parties and signed agricultural leases on the very land in question.
- The Port has implemented plans for large agricultural buffers around future industries.
- The original agricultural opponent, an adjacent farmer, not only has dropped his opposition (as have others) but is now one of the Port's agricultural lessees.
- The Port has worked out agreeable and approved limitations on the type of industries to be located on the property.

This is all clear evidence of meeting both the letter and intent of our land use laws, as well as cooperative, community-driven action.

Further ensuring compatibility, future industrial uses of the land are limited to the processing, production, storage, and transportation of forestry and wood products, natural gas, dry bulk, liquid bulk, and break bulk commodities, which are compatible with agriculture. This strengthens the removal of adverse impacts, enhancing compatibility.

The Port of Columbia County has demonstrated vision in this long-term land use planning, and the purpose, need, and all other land use tests have been upheld repeatedly. Now, the Port has demonstrated that not only will compatibility exist, measures have been taken to make it so. In doing so, when approved, the Port Westward rezone will help meet Oregon's critical shortage of Lower Columbia marine industrial sites and will help make our county, region and state more productive in essential, appropriate, compatible uses of our land that generate investment, revenue and family-wage jobs.

Once again, based on the Port's compatibility modifications as its final component, we strongly urge your approval of the Port Westward Compatibility Remand to complete the Port Westward Re-zoning application.

We need your careful and favorable decision on this final component, to benefit our county and its citizens. On behalf of our families, neighbors, and communities, please vote to approve the Compatibility Remand to complete the Port Westward re-zoning.

Sincerely,

**John Walsh**, City Administrator  
City of St. Helens  
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