

*Portland Business Journal*  
Aug 25, 2022, 7:10am PDT

Portland City Council passes ban on new fossil-fuel terminals — again

**More than 90% of Oregon's liquid fuels are stored in a six-mile stretch along the west side of the Willamette just north of Portland's core.**

Portland's City Council voted unanimously on Wednesday to limit new and expanded bulk fossil-fuel terminals.

It's a policy Portland has been trying to put in place [since 2015](#) through a series of resolutions, ordinance votes, industry challenges and Land Use Board of Appeals remands back to the necessary first step in protecting the community from the risks that fossil-fuel storage pose in the region.

More than 90% of Oregon's liquid fuels are stored in a 6-mile stretch along the west side of the Willamette just north of Portland's core.

"The first step in making the current situation better is to ensure that the situation does not get worse," the ordinance declares. "Continuing to allow the unlimited increase in fossil fuel terminal storage tank capacity within a high-risk area increases the risk to the surrounding industrial district and the Willamette River."

[A recent report](#) commissioned by Multnomah County and Portland city agencies found that a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake — a 26% risk in the next 50 years — could cause a release of fuels that dwarfs the [Deepwater Horizon spill](#).

"This ordinance helps to protect the health and safety of our community and the environment from the potentially harmful effects of a major earthquake," Mayor [Ted Wheeler](#) said Wednesday.

The Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council, Portland Business Alliance, Oregon Business & Industry and Western States Petroleum Association have long [fought the policy](#).