

News Release

For Release Immediate

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Anti LNG Forces Again Misrepresent the Facts Concerning Requested Zoning Change

(Portland, OR: September 23, 2009) Energy Action Northwest, a business-labor coalition promoting sound energy policy for the Pacific Northwest, today decried the ongoing misrepresentation of key facts surrounding development of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal on the Columbia River.

In a statement released today, EA Executive Director Edward Finklea stated, "Groups opposing the development of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal on the Columbia River are at it again...deliberately twisting the facts surrounding needed LNG development in comments they made on a proposed zoning change during a rally prior to a Clatsop County meeting." A private landowner has asked for a zoning change on private property to facilitate the siting of a natural gas pipeline on his property. The landowner has a perfect right to seek such a zoning change on private land.

In an attempt to stop the needed energy development and kill jobs, anti-LNG forces are claiming that a law enacted last year that applies only to public parklands prohibits the requested zoning change. The zoning change has been requested by a private landowner to allow a natural gas pipeline on private property. The referendum in 2008, by law, could only affect public parklands.

Finklea stated, "The opponents are well aware that the referendum has no direct bearing on the zoning request before the Clatsop County Board tonight, but chose once again to distort the facts. This is irresponsible behavior that damages the integrity of public debate on our energy future."

Finklea noted that there are already over 32 miles of high pressure natural gas pipelines in Clatsop County that have operated safely for many years. More natural gas pipelines pose no real threat to the safety of Clatsop County residents or to the environment. The pipelines will be buried over three feet below ground and will be subject to strict safety regulations. The opposition has engaged in scare tactics designed to stop an LNG terminal without regard to the facts.

Energy Action Northwest is a public policy advocacy group representing businesses and labor organizations in the Pacific Northwest that are concerned about the reliability and affordability of electricity and natural gas. Its members are energy stakeholders who support the organization's objectives recommending energy policies based on sound economics, science, rational environmental stewardship and competitive cost. The organization also provides accurate information and context needed to correct misinformation created by certain opponents to the development of new energy infrastructure in Oregon and Washington.

The Job Keepers.