

## Fossil Fuel Remarks

Today, I am proud to join my colleagues in support of this historic Resolution.

When this fossil fuel policy was first proposed, I had a lot of questions.

I wondered what it would mean for existing businesses wanting to make safety improvements, especially around seismic resilience.

I wondered what it would mean for our blue-collar workers.

I wanted to better understand the intended, and unintended, consequences of our proposed action.

And, I wanted to make sure we took the time, now and in the future, to get it right.

My job is to ask these and other questions, and I have, in conversations with Michael Armstrong and Jackie Dingfelder...

... with citizens and with advocates, and during last week's hearing.

Today, my questions have mostly been answered.

I am grateful to my colleagues for supporting my request that we find ways to invest in our workers as we transition from a fossil fuel economy to a clean energy economy.

Today's action strikes a balance – we're sending a strong signal that we're moving away from fossil fuels...

... and welcoming clean energy companies to our community.

And, we're signaling to local workers that we care about their future.

(PAUSE)

A healthy and sustainable future depends on protecting our environment and creating opportunity for our people.

For me, it is not an "either/or" – it's both.

And Portland has a chance to demonstrate the power of a blue and green coalition leading the way to a better future.

In my 7 years on Council, I have supported a number of initiatives to protect our environment and to address climate change:

- Two Climate Action Plans, in 2009 and 2015...

- The City's financial divestment from fossil fuels...
  - Clean Energy Works...
  - Grey to Green, and
  - New and important protections of the Willamette River and our Bull Run Watershed.
  - And we are even turning human waste into clean energy and fertilizer!
- The challenges of climate change are unprecedented, but not insurmountable – no matter what our critics say!

Today's vote sends a strong signal that Portland will continue to lead the way, like we always have.

Thank you, Mayor Hales and Commissioner Fritz, for your leadership on this historic action.

I vote aye.