

Texada Action Now Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Powell River Regional District calls for LNG Tanker Ban

POWELL RIVER BC – Powell River Regional District directors have unanimously endorsed a resolution calling for the banning of ocean going tankers carrying liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the waters of Georgia and Malaspina Straits. The Directors also called for the BC provincial government to require all new gas fired generating facilities to emit zero greenhouse gases.

The call for a ban is in response to a plan by Westpac LNG Corporation to build an LNG unloading facility and gas fired generation station on the northwest tip of Texada Island, between BC's Sunshine Coast and Vancouver Island. The LNG would be shipped to Texada from around the globe in huge 950 ft long tankers. The LNG in the tankers is kept at minus 161 degrees Celsius to keep it in liquid form and so that it occupies 1/600 the volume it would have as a gas.

Texada Action Now (TAN), a Texada citizens group battling to stop the Westpac proposal was quick to endorse the Regional District's call. TAN chair Chuck Childress said, "It's nice to see the leadership being shown by the directors, and we strongly endorse the commitment to encourage other communities around the Georgia Basin to follow their lead."

"The siting of an LNG terminal involves risks to the environment, scenic disruption, and potential safety hazards. We do not believe the Texada site meets even the minimum standards for LNG terminal siting as laid out by the LNG industry's own Society of International Gas Terminal and Tanker Operators. (SIGTTO)", said Childress.

"Everyone on the Strait should be concerned about the tankers", added TAN researcher O.C.(Doby) Dobrostanski "The Exxon Valdez was said to be perfectly safe up until the moment it ran aground in Prince William Sound. An accident involving one of these huge tankers is just a matter of when and where. It's insane to be putting the Gulf Islands and the Strait at risk"

The Powell River Regional District resolution is being forwarded to the federal and provincial governments and to the Union of BC Municipalities. Childress commented, "The BC government should play a key role. If the province is truly serious about greenhouse gas emissions the plant won't go ahead and there will be no need for the tankers."

"BC exports about 80% of natural gas production , and many Georgia Basin residents think it is absurd to be considering importing and burning a fossil fuel that is not needed and when the provincial government is aggressively trying to reduce greenhouse gases, and become energy self sufficient", said Childress, adding that in early May the Department of Energy for the State of Oregon, one of BC's partners in the Western Climate Initiative ,concluded that LNG was "unnecessary, expensive and polluting"

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Enclosure: The Powell River Regional District Resolution