



News Release

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LEGISLATORS PRAISE STATE AGENCY FOR DENYING JORDAN COVE EXTENSION

Today Oregon State Senator Jeff Golden (Sen District 3) and Representative Pam Marsh (House District 5) sent the following letter to Governor Kate Brown and Department of State Lands (DSL) Director Vicki Walker:

Dear Director Walker:

We write to extend our strong appreciation for your January 21 decision to deny the Jordan Cove Energy Project (JCEP)'s request to delay DSL's decision on the project from January 31 to March 31, 2020.

From our slightly distanced perspective, the pressure to delay the DSL decision yet again appeared to be substantial. The applicant's behavior over the last year—most notably its failure to act on DEQ's invitation to replace their rejected application with a new one (a concession that JCEP had asked for), and its failure to provide further material to your department after you granted its request to delay DSL's decision from last September to January 31—suggests to us that they are not significantly focused on gaining necessary approval from state agencies. It appears that they are counting instead on approval of their broader application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which is expected to announce its decision in February, after which they would navigate the courts in an attempt to have the federal decision override all denials from Oregon state agencies. Given that timetable, their effort to have you delay your decision until March is strategically logical.

In the face of pressures to accommodate that strategy, the decision to deny the extension clearly demonstrates your dedication to DSL's mandate to protect the waterways of the state, and to serve Oregonians impartially, regardless of political crosscurrents. That kind of resolve is crucially important when pressure for approval becomes intense, and we sincerely thank you for it.

Respectfully,

State Senator Jeff Golden, District 3

State Representative Pam Marsh, District 5

After JCEP's latest request for an extension, a DSL official observed that since the Jordan Cove application was submitted in 2017, DSL has twice agreed to suspend review of the application and four times agreed to extend the permit decision deadline.

"That's more than long enough," said Senator Golden. "The prospect of this 3-foot gas pipeline ripping across Southern Oregonian has been hanging over our heads for well over a decade. We need resolution."

The latest request for an extension, Golden said, was part of a larger game plan. "This corporation has come to realize that their pipeline can't come close to meeting Oregon's environmental standards. The environmental protection standards of the Trump Administration on oil and gas projects are a very different matter, and *those* are the ones that Jordan Cove wants to see applied to their application. They knew that would be more likely if Oregon's decisions could be delayed until after FERC makes its ruling."

With the denial of JCEP's extension request, DSL remains on track to announce its decision on critical aspects of the project on Friday, January 31.

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