

**From:** Charles Varni [mailto:[charles@varni.org](mailto:charles@varni.org)]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 09, 2016 8:39 AM  
**To:** Ramona Hedges <[rhedges@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:rhedges@co.slo.ca.us)>  
**Subject:** Letter for Mr. Irving

Dear Mr. Irving,

I am writing to encourage you to vote to deny the Phillips 66 project on Sept 22. Over the many months I have watched you deal with this project I have gained a genuine respect for your thoughtfulness and professionalism as you study, question, and seek understanding. I know you want to do the right thing. As I am sure you know by now, yesterday the County Staff again recommended the project be denied, as well as the request to postpone a decision until march 2017.

We all clearly heard you last April when you said that if your conditions for safety were not met you could not approve the project and now the facts are all on the table. The conditions you sought cannot be implemented by the County due to Federal preemption (as clearly articulated in County Staff reports). However, you do have the authority to protect the lives, economies, and environments of our County (and State) by denying the oil train terminal project.

You have served the County long and well as a Planning Commissioner and I believe your position on this project, your vote on this project, will be your legacy. You are in a uniquely powerful position and have an awesome responsibility to do the right thing FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTY AND STATE. As a man of his word, and given that the conditions you stated were necessary for your support of the project, and the fact that those conditions cannot be implemented by SLO county, you have no alternative but to deny the project--for all the right reasons. You can stand tall and proud with your integrity with that decision. That is a great legacy of service and protection.

Most sincerely,

Charles Varni

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