



## Watch out, Jordan Cove

### IN MY OPINION

In the face of seemingly insurmountable odds, tribes, landowners and climate activists have successfully stopped three pipelines in the past month. Standing up against billion-dollar multinational corporations, our movement has made history this July through stunning victories against the Atlantic Coast, Dakota Access and Keystone XL pipelines. These victories demonstrate the power of grassroots organizing and signal the end of an era for fossil fuel infrastructure projects.

Jordan Cove is next.

The proposed 230-mile fracked-gas pipeline and export facility in Southern Oregon faces an uphill battle against a diverse coalition across the state. Tribal governments concerned with the destruction of their sacred sites and ancestral territory, impacted landowners who face the seizure of their property by a Canadian corporation through eminent domain and climate activists committed to stopping fossil fuel infrastructure projects have been fighting Jordan Cove's construction since it was first proposed 15 years ago.

Even with the Trump administration trying to ram this project through, it is clear that the majority of Oregonians agree — Jordan Cove should not be built. Despite the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's approval of the project earlier this spring (in the midst of a global health crisis), Jordan Cove still faces the double threat of ongoing litigation and a crashing natural gas market.

But the biggest thing standing in the way of Jordan Cove's construction is us.

Following the pattern of pipeline projects the nation over, a shared disdain for Jordan Cove has created strange bedfellows as tribal governments, conservative rural landowners and progressive climate justice activists applaud liberal Gov. Kate Brown and Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum for their recent legal challenge to the FERC approval.

These unlikely alliances are the key to success in our fight against Jordan Cove and against destructive projects everywhere. Only by building solidarity between disparate communities, and by following the leadership of those who stand to be most impacted, are we able to win against the power and influence of the fossil fuel industry. Only by building coalitions based on mutual respect and reciprocity will we be able to stand up for ourselves, our safety and our futures against these immoral projects. That is why I'm certain that it is not a question of if Jordan Cove will be defeated, but when. Because grassroots organizing works, and we're damn good at it.

Pembina (the corporation behind Jordan Cove) could walk away now and save its energy and investors' money. Otherwise, Oregonians will continue to fight this project using every tool at our disposal until we have bled the corporation dry and stopped this pipeline for good.

And so I ask, which one is it going to be? *Dylan Plummer is a grassroots organizer for Cascadia Wildlands. He writes a monthly column for The Register-Guard.*



**Dylan Plummer**

