

# Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

Dear Anna,

## In this Issue:

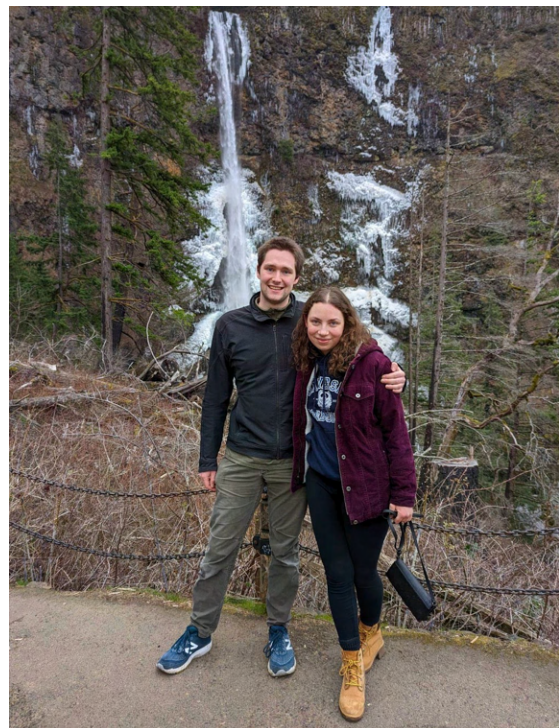
Introducing Paulina Durham. Once a Braided River Showing. Stop Zenith Protest. Heat and Smoke Resources.

## Oregon PSR's New Clean Air Organizer Paulina Durham!

Oregon PSR is proud to announce that we have a new Clean Air Organizer, Paulina Durham (she/her)! Paulina comes to Oregon PSR from the State Capital where she worked as a legislative aide to Senator Deb Patterson, who introduced the Covanta Incineration Regulation bill this past session. We are very excited to have Paulina on our staff and can't wait for you all to meet her! To start that process off, we asked Paulina a few questions to help us get to know her.

**Q: How would you describe your role at Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility?**

A: My role is to work with members of the community impacted by the Covanta incinerator, health care providers, and coalition partners while engaging in legislative advocacy in order to hold Covanta accountable for the harm it continues to cause. I also do quite a bit of research on the path forward to zero



waste, models that have been used successfully by other communities, and the harm that incinerators can cause.

**Q: What do you see as the connection between clean air and a transition to zero waste?**

A: To me, a transition to zero waste is the only way to ensure that those affected by the Covanta incinerator are breathing clean air. I see this issue as one of bodily autonomy; everyone has the right to know if they are unknowingly absorbing toxins, carcinogens, and other harmful substances, and they have the right to live, work, and study in a place in which they are not unwillingly absorbing these substances. Zero waste is the path forward to achieving agency and autonomy for those affected by the incinerator around the air they breathe.

**Q: How will you balance working with health professionals and frontline community members?**

A: I believe that each group adds an important thread to the narrative: health professionals can speak to the broad health impacts caused by exposure to toxic chemicals, but frontline community members can speak to their individual experiences. I believe in treating both voices as central to our discussion and to our mission, while prioritizing the voices of those who are directly affected by the incinerator when carving a path forward.

**Q: What is your favorite thing to do in Oregon?**

A: It's hard to pick a favorite! I guess it's a tie between trying and experiencing the wonderful food in Oregon and walking or hiking in Oregon's parks and trails. I didn't grow up near so many beautiful places to enjoy nature (or with all four seasons), and it still feels new and wonderful when I walk through a Portland park in the fall or drive up the Oregon coast in the summer.

**Q: Tell us something about you!**

A: I like to sew in my spare time! In high school, I used to make some costumes for the theater productions I was involved in, and I still work on clothing projects for myself.

# HEALTHY CLIMATE RESOURCES

## **New Healthy Climate Resources!**

Oregon PSR has put together living documents that include resources for [extreme heat](#), and [wildfire smoke and dangerous air quality](#). These resources include information about how these disasters impact our health and bodies, ways to keep ourselves safe, and places to go around the state to escape extreme weather events. We are excited to continue gathering resources and growing this page!

[Learn More](#)

## **Actions:**



## **In Person Action: [People v.s. City Council: Exposing Zeniths Backdoor Deal](#)**

Portland City Council needs to know that the people of Portland oppose their backdoor dirty deal with Zenith. City Council still has the power to rescind

Zeniths LUCS, and they need to do it now!

**JOIN US at City Hall on Wednesday, September 6th at 9 am** to voice your concerns and **wear RED** to show your solidarity.

We will be supporting a community member testifying to City Council by showing up to the hearing, wearing red, and holding signs. **Meet us outside City Hall at 9:00am**

RSVP for more info!

Can't make it in person, no worries! [You can send a message to Portland City Council directly.](#)

RSVP Here



### **Flash Futures PNW: A Climate Fiction & Art Contest**

We are currently accepting submissions of climate fiction in two categories -- writing and visual art -- for the Flash Futures PNW: A Climate Fiction & Art Contest, now through SEPTEMBER 30th, 2023. *Read the full prompt, submission guidelines, and more on our website - [climatefictionpnw.org](https://climatefictionpnw.org) and in our [submissions form](#).*

Learn More

## PDX: BAN OIL TRAINS!



### **Tell Portland City Council to rescind their backroom dirty deal with Zenith**

Early this year we were betrayed by Portland Commissioners Dan Ryan and Carmen Rubio in a backroom deal with Zenith, permitting the facility to endanger Portland with another five years of explosive oil trains.

Thousands of Portlanders have taken action against Zenith Energy's plan to increase oil train traffic through its terminal on the Willamette waterfront, because it presents a clear and present danger to our communities. **The people of Portland, and allies all over the country, say no. We demand the City Council cancel this dirty deal.**

**Add your name and send the Portland City Council a message: you serve the people of Portland, not a Texas-based fossil fuel corporation trying to wring a few more million dollars out of a dying, deadly industry.**

Sign On

# Multnomah County Knows the Dangers of Gas Stoves.



## Now They Need to do Something About Them.

### [Sign on Letter to Multnomah County: Health Professionals Only](#)

Tell Chair Vega Pederson and Multnomah County Commissioners to increase public awareness of the health harms of gas stoves, make funds available to enable low-income and BIPOC residents to transition away from gas, and to explore the counties authority to regulate gas stoves.

Sign On

### [Send a Prescription to Multnomah County: Health Professionals Only](#)

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, 350 PDX, and Stand.Earth are working in partnership to organize a climate emergency action on Thursday, September 7th. We are planning on delivering the Multnomah County Gas Stove letter in person at this action. In addition to signing the letter to Multnomah County about the health harms of gas stoves, please write a prescription, using the following form. Start with a specific concern and then ask "prescribe" one of the calls to action in the letter.

We plan to read these as part of our testimony to Multnomah County Commissioners.

# Take Action

## **Events:**



### **Once a Braided River: How Portland Abused and Degraded the River that Runs Through It, September 12th.**

*Once a Braided River*, a new documentary by Barbara Bernstein, tells the story of how the North Reach of the Willamette River was transformed from a braided river, rich in biodiversity and home to many bands of indigenous people, into an industrial sacrifice zone with a ten mile long superfund site running from downtown Portland to the river's confluence with the Columbia River.

The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with Bob Sallinger, Sarah Taylor, John Wasiutynski and Jay Wilson, who are featured in the film, and moderated by Barbara Bernstein.

This event is co-sponsored by the Braided River Campaign, Friends of Baltimore Woods, Columbia Riverkeeper, Willamette Riverkeeper, KBOO Community Radio, 350PDX and Oregon PSR.

**Buy your tickets today!**

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility · 4110 SE Hawthorne Blvd, #758, Portland, OR 97214, United States

This email was sent to [annakahler25@gmail.com](mailto:annakahler25@gmail.com). To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).  
You can also keep up with Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).

Created with [NationBuilder](#), software for leaders.