

## **Buckets of money, disturbing messages**

*By Dan Smith, October 26, 2018*

The buckets of money being spent by industrial interests on the Benicia City Council election have put out some pretty strange and disturbing messages about Kari Birdseye. I know Kari Birdseye, so please allow me to set the record straight.

Kari serves on our Planning Commission and puts in many hours of unpaid time researching the issues that come before it. She is an excellent listener, controlled by no one and nothing other than a desire to make Benicia as good as it can be. To do that does not mean to allow a rail industry that is not prepared to handle volatile tar sands to bring them to our town for refining, at the risk of the type of horrible rail accidents you see happening in other parts of the continent.

Bringing crude oil to the refinery by rail and not demanding better monitoring of our air with an Industrial Safety Ordinance (ISO) are not the only issues in this election, but you can rest assured they are why so much money is being spent behind the curtain of a “political action committee.” I know, because the latter was the same reason the refinery and its business associates spent so much in prior city council elections when I was a candidate.

Valero is an important member of our business community, and no one is trying to shut them down, despite the hysteria of some messages in this election. However, our neighbors in Contra Costa County have for years had an ISO to protect them and hold the refineries over there accountable. Kari Birdseye believes Benicia deserves the same protection. The two candidates supported by the oil industry here have shown that they do not.

That’s why I’m voting for Kari Birdseye for City Council.

*Dan Smith*

*Benicia*