

## Daniel Villa

My name's Dan Villa and I live up in Hilltop. And so, last summer I had a friend visiting from out of town and we were so excited to take advantage of the natural beauty that this state has to offer. But the entire time that she was here, we couldn't even see Mt. Rainier from Tacoma because of all the wildfires. And we all know that all these wildfires are exasperated by increased CO2 emissions and by climate change, right? So, while our missed opportunity for camping was surely a disappointment, those wildfires would have impacted our state's outdoor recreation industry really heavily. And this industry alone provides some 451,000 jobs and generated \$51 billion in consumer spending in 2017. And those aren't the only jobs affected in Washington by climate change. As the latest federal climate report that just came out states, quote, "the northwest provides for diverse natural resource economy. The agriculture, forestry, and fishery sectors accounted for over 700,000 jobs, and more than \$139 billion in sales in 2015." And of course, WestRock, which does provide many good jobs here in Tacoma, would be included in that, right? So, if you depend on forestry, you're going to be very affected when climate change burns down those forests. So I'm very worried about that, you know, jobs being sustainable here in Tacoma, and people having those good jobs because we all need to survive day to day. So, all these industries and all the jobs they provide, the report notes, are put in jeopardy by climate change. So, back in 2008, the Washington State Legislature passed RCW 70.235 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. So my question is, like how would this expansion of emissions fit into that plan? And you know, if it is indeed just an upgrade of a burner and you're only gonna still burn the exact same you're burning, why does a permit have to say you can do more? If it's just an expansion to be more efficient, hey great, that's great, we all want less pollution, why can't there just be no expansion on emissions then? And so, you know, the permit does call for 60,000 more tons of CO2, and that's only the local impact. My understanding is that there's going to be more natural gas burned at this facility, and so that doesn't take into account all the upstream emissions from natural gas. And if you look at other projects recently Washington State that use natural gas, they have been required to undergo a supplemental environmental impact statement to look at their greenhouse gas emissions because as many of us know, methane is 86 times more powerful than CO2 as a greenhouse gas in a 20 year timespan. So, if we're just bringing natural gas to create power for them to run their facility, there's actually a huge impact. If methane leaks as little as 3% in this entire supply chain, that's worse than coal for the climate. And also note is that the Attorney General's office, in regards to another natural gas related project here in Tacoma, urged the incorporation of the most current, valid, peer-reviewed studies to determine the true impact of the facility. And for this project then, I would think we would need to look at considering a study from the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences which says that biomass emits actually 45% more carbon dioxide than coal, and almost 300% more than an efficient natural gas power plant measured at the source of combustion only. So yeah, there's a lot of concerns here just with emissions in general because we need to look at the whole picture, not just the point of combustion here in Tacoma. And with international climate scientists saying we have 12 years to rapidly shift away from fossil fuels, I don't understand how any increase in emissions could be considered insignificant at this point. From my understanding, they're going to be burning more natural gas for their own use, and selling their green energy to California. So again, I understand that's not really necessary, and it's not good for our local air and global climate. I mean I live up on Hilltop, and on some days I can smell it, especially in downtown, and I know that's not good for our health. So for these reasons - for our jobs, for our health, I ask Ecology to please reconsider this expansion project and, you know, if necessary bring down that emissions cap and let them put in a more efficient boiler. Thank you.

