PacWest Silicon Smelter for Environmental Review

TO: Washington Department of Ecology

RE: PacWest silicon smelter project – Newport, WA

Seeking public response on *what to study* and *how it should be studied*.

Must be received by Oct. 11, 2018 (per mailer)

Public Comments:

As seen from the impact of other silicon smelter around the globe, many believe this smelter will have a significant negative impact on the environment areas in a 200-mile radius. These impacted areas would include eastern Washington, northern Idaho and western Montana, as well as parts of Canada. It is believed that the air quality both from the smelter plant and its material logistics traffic, will pollute the air to the point of devastating the ecological environment within a decade. Killing the beautiful thriving forests that are here, and directly and/or indirectly killing much of the vegetation and animal inhabitants that depend on them, including many endangered species. This is not something our beautiful Evergreen State needs.

At a minimum, the Environmental Studies of the immediate and surrounding areas for both short-term and long-term effects should include:

1. The PacWest Silicon Smelter's pollutant and contaminant direct and indirect impact to the air, ozone, water (aquafer and water shed), soil (food producing and non-food producing), flora (trees, shrubs, plans, grasses, food-producing plants, etc.), fauna (animals, birds, fish, etc.), as well as humans.
2. The smelter's true environmental impact radius.
3. The smelter's normal and high averages of water consumption and the impact on the aquafer and the aquafer's recharge rate and quality.
4. The smelter's normal and high averages of electric power consumption and impact on the environment with the increased demand.
5. Train and truck traffic necessary for importing and exporting of the materials and the increased transportation traffic's impact on the environment.
6. The smelter, power and material transportation's environmental impact endangered plants and animals of the area.
7. The smelter, power and material transportation's impact on the Northwestern United States' few remain cleanest air quality areas.
8. Remediation plan(s) and their actual effectiveness at reducing or eliminating effect(s) they intend to mitigate.
9. Side effects and other environmental impacts caused by the remediation plan(s).
10. Study of other existing Silicon Smelters (including some of PacWest's own plans) around the world and their true impact on the environments around them.
11. Before and after true results and impact on the environment.

12. Before plan environment similarities and differences (i.e., forested, grass lands, water shed, food production, cities/towns, etc.)
13. Remediation efforts implemented and the actual results.
14. Comparison of the PacWest Silicon Smelter's planned product production and it's estimated impacts vs. the planned and actual production and impacts of the other Silicon Smelters.

The results this study will undoubtedly prove that this plant is not good for Washington's future. The proclaimed jobs that this plant will bring for the existing *qualified local residence* will amount to less than that of a fast-food chain in quantity and income. Yet the price not only this area, but this region, will pay is significant. This "price" will come in the form of lost tourism, forestry and food production revenue, lower quality-of-life, loss of hunting, fishing and loss of some endangered species, just to name a few. I hope that the Washington State Department of Ecology will ***reject*** the permit necessary for PacWest Silicon Smelter to proceed.

Sincerely,

Leaha van Olphen