

## Martha Winje

I was at the meeting in Newport last night, and had to leave before it was my turn to talk.

A number of the people who were there commented stating distrust of the Department of Ecology and other state organizations participating in this process. There was also very little stated confidence that PacWest would follow regulations and guidelines if they did win a permit to do business.

I have lived in this county for almost 50 years. I have lived through the heyday of the forest industry and have watched it slowly die. There were a lot of heavy trucks on the road in those days. I have lived through the doomsday screaming prior to PNC coming to do business in our county—that industry has improved quality of life for so many of our county, but its life cycle is nearly done. I do have a lot of confidence in the processes that have to be followed in order for PacWest to be approved. The process is rigorous, and Washington state is one of the best at it. If this industry can meet the regulations and requirements, I welcome it!

I have worked as a contracted healthcare provider to heavy industry, including Rio Tinto, ENI, and Price Gregory - each of those companies had extensive processes in place and did hire people specifically to be sure that they were always within the federal and state guidelines where they operated. In general companies do want to be in compliance.

The silicon smelter will be in our backyard too. Of course we will be affected by it in positive and negative ways.

We are part of the silent majority. Make no mistake...we are the majority

—we are those who wish there were 10 companies beating down our doors asking for permission to do business here

—we are those who understand that industry contribution to our county tax base is incredibly valuable

—we are those who understand that infrastructure build-up and further development of support industry that would accompany PacWest is a good thing.

If PacWest can meet permitting criteria we welcome it.