

Martha Nichols

I am strongly opposed to the PacWest Smelter proposed for Newport, WA. I have lived in the Newport area for 47 years. I have taught school, served on the school board and economic development council, formed three non-profit organizations in the area and contributed conscientiously to the quality of life in this corner of NE Washington.

The only resource Pend Oreille County can count on is our clean environment. PacWest would pollute our air, siphon off our water, produce waste and bring literally tons of degradation to our homes, all in the name of jobs. Meanwhile, The Kalispel Tribe of Indians has built a multifaceted economic engine including a grocery store, gas station, RV park, accommodations, casino and storage units just north of Cusick. The Tribe estimates it will employ 100 local people in jobs that will not harm their health or the environment.

In your deliberations, please look at the total cost of the Pac West Smelter per job that may be created. Ask yourselves if the subsidy with public money of \$100,000 per job, jobs I wouldn't want my children to take, is worth it.

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