

Adam Koch

To Whom It Concerns:

My hometown that I grew up in, is Oldtown, ID. I am an author and self publisher, but also a small scale miner and prospector. Minerals, mining, and refining are areas of great self study and interest for me. I WANT this refinery to be built. Let me debunk some propaganda the opposition is spewing and get onto why I support it.

1. "Silicosis". Heh, really? They are whining it's going to kill us all. The reality is virtually all rocks are comprised of or contain some proportion of silica and silica based minerals. Most of our roads are gravel and dirt roads, most non City dwellers live along these roads. Every automobile barreling up and down these roads kicks up actual rock dust that really does pose a risk to inhabitants constantly exposed to it. There are no scrubbers or filters or closed loop systems cleaning up these silicates from cars driving on these roads like there will be in the smelter. Further, a convenient fact not to report: silicosis, or miners lung, was most prevalent in the old gold and silver rush days before wet drilling was invented. When there was no means to control dust in the mines from drilling and blasting, it took some 5 years of 16 hour days for a miner to develop life threatening complications due to rock dust, and that was in a confined area. The smelter will not be spewing rock dust nor will the nearby inhabitants be in a confined area with any emissions there might be.

2. "It will hurt our air and water". Ummm, look at any smelter, compare that to the last few years of horrific wildfires. The emissions of a smelter of any size are miniscule when compared to the billions of tons of emissions from wildfires. Not to mention the destruction of watersheds responsible for keeping our waters clean. Plus, there is nothing being used that doesn't itself come from nature. Oh the water usage... Well, sure they might use thousands of gallons a day but it will be recycled; but what they won't tell you is any water it would use is insignificant compared to what Newport and Oldtown use. Oldtown is home to 180 or so people. Just Oldtown, during the summer, consumes over 1 million gallons of water a day. If they are worried about water usage, they should raze Oldtown and Newport to the ground.

3. The neighborhood, as in the immediate vicinity, is home to several wrecking yards, a landfill, and countless methlabs, yet they are worried a \$300 million dollar project will destroy property values and the health of our ecosystem? Puleeze.

We NEED the jobs. Everyone wants \$15 an hour jobs, yet, the minute we can have jobs come in starting at \$30 an hour on up, "oh no, we didn't mean that, we really don't want to work."

Everyone will prosper with this smelter, but if it is not built, we will never again have the prosperity this area is pong overdue for. I urge you to approve this project. Mining and refining is the backbone of our economy, and that backbone has been destroyed by communist forces. We must restore our economy to greatness or no one will be rising above that of a tributary slave barely surviving paycheck to paycheck.

Sincerely,
Adam G. Koch