

# Maya Starbright

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you concerning the Silicon Smelter proposed for Newport WA. It seems odd to me that I would have to write to you about this at all; first that it is even being considered and second that I am questioning you and other elected officials on your ability to put the proper forethought into this project. Nevertheless, I am writing; and I will be echoing the majority of the citizens in this area. We are not a small group of extreme outliers; we are the MAJORITY. You will no doubt read this same material many times. I hope you heed what you are reading, and understand truly that this project has no place in our community.

The following is a shorter list of the more measurable salient points I implore you to consider. Also, as a more generalized plea, please take a look at the historical evidence of smelters; and industry of this type. Consider Bellingham WA, a town that is using more than 20 million dollars of taxpayers money just to clean up a small bit of shoreline along the town's bay. Or Tacoma WA which is in a very similar situation. The smelter was closed down in 1985 but to this day the area is considered heavily toxic, to the point that people are sent regular bulletins by the city warning against wearing outside shoes in the house, and letting pets on the lawns, or growing vegetable gardens. The information and facts about these smelters and the effects they have had are easily discovered and I will not insult your intelligence by telling you that it is your duty to look at these historical facts thoroughly. Instead I will implore you to look at them and understand that no matter what kind of parameters and regulations are set for this project, Newport WA is the worst possible place to place it. Newport just does not have the infrastructure or resources to support this type of smelter, and it will cost too much of the taxpayer's dollars to make this feasible.

More specifically, transportation of raw materials to the site will require major road and railroad reconstruction, not just in Washington but in Idaho as well. Transportation of the finished product out of the area and it's special needs, storage of said materials, and the electricity and other power that is needed to create the end product (which is currently not available in this area). Noise and light pollution definitely need to be considered, as well as chemical and pollution and physical detritus, and pollution that occurs as a byproduct of the increased transportation and energy needs.

Also to consider fully are the risks and accidents that will indeed occur eventually, no matter how 'safety conscious' the project is. Leakage of molten silica, steam explosions, Exhaust gas recovery explosions, train spills and derailments, and fires (to include forest fires).

And of course, the wellbeing of the people who live here, as well as the wildlife and ecosystem; the physical health of our area really should not be compromised in any way, especially when the citizens are strongly against it. Putting a smelter on the adjacent property to the only schools in the area is probably the worst location you could pick; never mind that same proposed property is also next to the river and lake system that 40,000 people eat and drink from.

Thank you for reading, and taking the time to read the many statements of people who are much more informed about the specific hazards than I.

Regards,  
Maya