

# Thomas B. Renk

As a resident of Bonner County, ID, for 47 years, I am presenting my opinions on the proposed silicon smelter in Newport, WA.

Points to consider:

- 1) Need for a very thorough independent Environmental Impact Statement including fact-based technology studies regarding amount and toxicity of emissions on air, soils, water, flora, and fauna, including humans in both Washington and Idaho. This must include the probable cumulative effect of any emissions.
- 2) Effect of transport of materials (including coal) on infrastructure in Idaho and Washington, at least, including areas like Sandpoint, Idaho, where increases of east/west truck traffic in town will create bottle necks affecting motorists and first responders. Who pays for the maintenance and upgrades needed?
- 3) Effect of lower property values and decreased tourism to this beautiful area, which depends heavily on tourism for the economy.
- 4) Increasing worldwide research, including in the United States, on cheaper, more efficient and safer ways to produce solar panels. This much less energy intensive solar technology would render silicon production greatly reduced or obsolete. Why jeopardize a pristine and much loved and appreciated area for a temporary profit?
- 5) Strain on local resources for water, waste, and power, and the effects of these on the rest of us.
- 6) In the long run, the proposed local jobs created by this project would be easily surpassed by new jobs involving non-polluting businesses, as the last few years have shown.
- 7) Why should Washington and Idaho tolerate a private foreign business, with grave pollution potential, at our expense?

Sincerely,  
Tom Renk, Sandpoint, Idaho