

Bonnie O'Connor

To Whom it may concern,

Hello. My name is Bonnie O'Connor.

I've recently relocated to the Sandpoint area from southwest Colorado where, over the last 37 years I have seen and experienced the results of destructive and polluting activities of the oil and gas industries and of the effects of having coal burning power plants in the region.

I am a Registered Nurse and care deeply about public health and the health of our planet and all sentient beings thereupon.

I have encountered both personally and professionally a multitude of negative health effects caused by the aforementioned industries.

I have recently relocated to the Sandpoint, Idaho area in an effort to live in a cleaner environment and to live a more sustainable lifestyle.

I am an avid organic gardener/farmer and a consumer of locally produced organic products.

Another of my intentions in moving to this area is to grow and produce organic herbs and plants to be used as medicine.

In many instances this requires a concentration and/or distillation of the plant materials. As an example, the process of distillation used to create essential oils can require hundreds and hundreds of pounds of plant material to produce mere ounces of oil.

- How will the heavy metal fall out created by the smelter affect my and others ability to create a SAFE, EFFECTIVE, and "organic" product for MEDICINAL use WITHOUT incidentally concentrating heavy metals and other toxic by products from pollution created by the smelter?

-How can I produce safe organic food and medicine beneath acid rain and the fall out of poisons and toxins?

-How will the smelter created pollutants affect our "organic" milk, cheese, and meat production? (The above foods also essentially "concentrate" toxins when present in the environment.)

-What is the estimated time before people will need to limit their consumption of fish which will be contaminated by smelter toxins?

-Have the results of the effects on public and environmental health in areas/regions where other smelters have been and are currently in use been studied?

-If not, why?

-When will this be done? I respectfully request all available data be used. (We are humans, not ostriches.)

If the adage, "The solution to pollution is dilution", (which I do not believe is an appropriate concept but many industries seem to)- That will not work in this region due to weather and inversion patterns both historically and recently evidenced.

I am completely opposed to the smelter being built due to the above stated reasons and a multitude of others such as destroying property values as well as quality of life, etc., etc.

I am totally opposed to having a smelter built in this region which will poison the air, the water, the land, the animals, and the humans causing untold suffering, destruction, and death.

I have witnessed the results of industrial pollution in my former place of residence and as an R.N., I have cared for those suffering from the results such as cancer, respiratory diseases, and miscarriage to name but a few.

I am opposed to the creation of a smelter which will emit tons and tons and tons of greenhouse gases into our atmosphere when our planet already appears to be at a CRUCIAL tipping point.

I am opposed to the utter sketchiness of Washington state approving this project when it appears the majority of negative impact will occur in a neighboring state/region.

-I respectfully request that a broad scope study and assessment of air quality, water quality, the effects of acid rain and the pollution of lands used for the production and consumption of "sustainable, healthful, non toxic, organic" foods and medicines be conducted when preparing the draft EIS.

-I request the study of the effects on transportation, traffic safety, roads, bridges, and public safety, the FINANCIAL impacts thereof as well as noise impacts on the region.

-I request that these studies be addressed for the FULL BUILD OUT of the project rather than the proposed "initial phase" in the EIS so that there can be a more REALISTIC understanding of the full scope impacts of choosing to locate a smelter in this region.

-Further, I respectfully request that the No Action alternative for the proposed smelter project be the one chosen.

-Lastly, I request to be included in any future opportunities for public comment,

-And I respectfully request a copy of the response to these submitted comments.

Thank you,

Bonnie O'Connor