

## Sydney Porter

My dream for the near future is a realistic one, one in which all lives have access to clean water and nontoxic soils. As a young person born and raised in Western Washington, I echo the voices of decades of youth before me and my own generation in pleading for a reality in which there are no new oil projects. Before we get to that point, we need to know that polluters can pay up. An industry defined by wealth, power, and catastrophe must be held to fix their own mistakes. If I need a credit check to rent an apartment, a major oil corporation should need to show proof that they can clean their own messes. Tax dollars are meant to go towards advancing our region. Why should anyone but a polluter pay? We know the risks of pipeline construction and oil rigs. The record speaks for itself. If they are going to operate, they need to prove financial responsibility over all private, public, and tribal lands that may be affected by the project.