

Resolution In Opposition to the Kalama Methanol Facility

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3 **WHEREAS** a mammoth, foreign-owned methanol facility has been proposed for
4 construction on the east bank of the Columbia River in Kalama, Washington;

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6 **WHEREAS** the Washington State Democratic Party Platform calls for “immediate
7 aggressive action to minimize climate change, as global climate change is the foremost
8 threat to survival of Earth as we know it,” and Governor Inslee has affirmed his
9 commitment to supporting the Paris Climate Accords;

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11 **WHEREAS** the proposed Kalama Facility would be the largest methanol facility in the
12 world, drawing 5,000,000 gallons of water daily from the Columbia and Kalama River
13 aquifers and utilizing 320 million cubic feet of natural gas daily – more than all other
14 gas-fired power plants in Washington combined;

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16 **WHEREAS** 72 million gallons of flammable methanol would be stored on local soil that
17 has a moderate to high risk of liquefying in an earthquake;

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19 **WHEREAS** three to six tankers a month would be needed every month to haul
20 methanol to China for use in manufacturing plastics there, an increase in ship traffic
21 that would harm endangered salmon that are already stressed and produce ship strikes
22 likely to kill or harm whales near the mouth of the Columbia;

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24 **WHEREAS** the facility would emit more than a million tons of climate pollution per
25 year as part of the manufacturing process, and shipping its output to Asia would
26 generate hundreds of thousands of tons of additional climate pollution per year, while
27 the methane emitted by fracking and pipeline transport to supply the facility would
28 make greenhouse gas emissions rise even further;

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30 **WHEREAS** at a time when we need to phase out reliance on fossil fuels and transition
31 to clean energy, the project would encourage new gas drilling and fracking;

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33 **WHEREAS** the proposed facility would not replace any coal-based methanol in China;

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35 **WHEREAS** private property and historic cemetery land would be seized to make way
36 for the three-mile long gas pipeline needed by the Kalama Facility; and

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38 **WHEREAS** the proposed facility would produce no substantial domestic benefit, either
39 locally or nationally, with only a few permanent low-wage jobs not necessarily filled
40 from local communities;

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42 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Central
43 Committee firmly oppose construction of the proposed Kalama Methanol Facility, and
44 urge the Governor and the State of Washington to reject it forthwith.
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46 Submitted by the Environment and Climate Caucus on 9/9/17.

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48 The Resolutions Committee recommended that the resolution be sent to the floor.

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50 The Washington State Democratic Central Committee passed the resolution.