Greetings,

My name is Desiree Hellegers. I teach at WSU Vancouver and am affiliated

faculty with the Collective for Social and Environmental Justice. I am writing

to express my strenuous opposition to the massive fracked gas to methanol plant

proposed for Kalama. In the wake of the wildfires this summer, as smoke filled

the Pacific Northwest, as the AQI skyrocketed over 500, I found myself wearing

a paint respirator to simply walk to the curb with the recycling, and looking

warily at our lovingly tended vegetable garden where for days the fuzzy leaves

of a sage plant had been steeped in smoke and toxic particulate matter. Is

this the dystopian and wholly avoidable future that we want for

ourselves and our children? For the Pacific Northwest, one of the most beautiful

regions in the U.S., a magnet for ecotourism and the “creative class” to be home to

the world’s largest methanol plant that will create millions of tons of greenhouse

pollution, drain aquifers and destroy the ecology and beauty of the region? For

these fossil fuels to continue to the rising temperatures of the Columbia River and

the inevitable salmon die offs? What do we imagine ourselves eating and drinking

in the future? While coal and oil are verging on going belly up and receive billions

in bail outs, while wind and solar are growing exponentially? Just say no to this

monstrous proposal and let’s get on with the business of building green sustainable

industries and living wage jobs in this region. The future is sustainable or there

is no future!

Sincerely,

Desiree Hellegers, Ph.D.