

Lori Sarancik

I am a resident of Longview, WA, and I appreciate the opportunity to leave my comments on this project. First of all, I live inside the city limits of Longview, and, as such, would not be able to visually see the new facility. It would not impact my everyday travels whatsoever because I live and work in Longview. I suppose any particulate that is air-borne would have the possibility of impacting me without me being aware of it. Because I am not a scientist, nor have I seen a study of this phenomenon, I cannot comment on the health impacts of the air after this facility is in operation. I would be interested to see how the Longview/Kelso area would be impacted by this. Also, my home and property would likely not change in value were the facility built and operating. Having said these things, I cannot speak from the point of view of having this facility built in my very own field of vision. So, I think those opinions of folks living near the location of the facility should be considered and studied with great detail. My interest in building the facility is economic. I have a teenage son who is working toward entering a workforce, and I interact with a lot of his friends who are in this stage of life as well. I believe that the number of jobs to build the facility and the number of jobs that will be available once it is operational are a very important point. These positions would provide opportunities for our youth that is maturing, so they would not have to leave town to find jobs with a good wage. Also, I have heard that the facility is sponsoring Workforce training. This is so important in our area where so many of the kids live at the poverty level and may not have an opportunity to study in college post high school. The facility could be a game-changer for our youth living below the poverty level. I believe we have a high percentage of youth in both the Longview and Kelso School Districts who participate in the free lunch program. These statistics are available from DSHS. Along with the number of new job positions available to our youth, this workforce training program is a huge need that the facility would help fill in our community. Finally, I believe the tax revenues from the business operation could be a big benefit to building and repairing our county infrastructure, recreational facilities, and community programs. We should look carefully at these things. So, to conclude, I am, as a resident of Longview, looking at a lot of economic and workforce benefits from this facility and it is attractive. If we carefully study and consider the health and financial impacts of the residents of Kalama and those living near to the facility, and we find they will have every opportunity to be free from physical and financial harm, then I believe it is a good project. Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment.