

# Rory Cowal

Dear Director Watson and Department of Ecology:

Today I am urging you to reject the proposal to build a refinery that would present a great risk to our communities and a huge setback in our efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

I live just across the Columbia in Portland OR. This has been an extremely difficult week for my family; we are experiencing first-hand how events fueled by climate change upend daily life. We grieve for the homes and lives lost to wildfire and we worry about our own health. By any measure, the quality of life in the Pacific Northwest is determined by the health of the land, the air, and the water. The oxygen we breathe, the food we eat, the natural places we go to boost our wellbeing and spend time with family and friends: none of these things are guaranteed to us or future generations unless we take care of our planet. This proposed methanol refinery guarantees one thing for people in the northwest: decades of pollution at an extraordinary cost and an enormous setback in the region's efforts to combat climate change.

To accomplish the very goals of the Department of Ecology—to protect, preserve, and enhance Washington's environment for current and future generations—the state of Washington must transition off fossil fuels and begin fighting the climate crisis at the scale that scientists say is necessary. For my family, for your family, for the sake of our legacy to the next generation, I am calling on you to reject the methanol refinery, and to deny the Shorelines Permit for the project.

Thank you,  
Rory Cowal