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The Washington Department of Ecology has set a goal of reducing carbon emissions by 40% by 2035. While I do not believe that goal is ambitious enough to prevent the worst effects of climate change, approving this project will send a message that even this modest goal is not a priority for the state.

Furthermore, on a recent call, it was stated that this proposal does not seek to mitigate CO2 emissions outside of Washington State. The Department of Ecology should consider the totality of projected emissions, even if most of the emissions enabled by a project would occur outside of Washington. After all, this 2035 goal was undoubtedly set with the aim of mitigating the effects of climate change ♦ it does not matter if emissions occur in the US, or in China. We can no longer disregard the harm of outsourcing our pollution to other parts of the world.

Finally, this new refinery would necessitate an expansion of natural gas pipelines in Washington state ♦ this investment in fossil fuel infrastructure would be a misplacement of priority and have the negative effect of lowering the barrier to entry for new emission-heavy projects in the state. For all of these reasons, I believe Washington should reject this proposal.