

Diana Winther

Hello, my name is Diana Winther. I'm a resident of Cowlitz County and a supporter of the Northwest Innovation Works Facility in Kalama. I'm also an attorney by trade and I believe in focusing on facts and analysis above feelings when it comes to making important decisions in my life and in the life of my community. I first want to thank the Department of Ecology, you have the challenging mission of protecting, preserving, and enhancing the environment for current and future generations. The second, SCIS is proof of your commitment to that mission. The consideration of public input into a scientific analysis of the facts under a variety of scenarios.

It is proof that this facility will create a net reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions by at least 6 billion metric tons a year. If opponents of this project brought this to me as a case, I would turn it away. Not because I'm a climate denier, I would simply point out that they had already won. It demanded a cleaner project, they got it. They asked for further study, they got it. If it were my job to advocate for a cleaner tomorrow, I would point to NWIW and demand that any new facilities meet or exceed the bar is set.

This project has proof that concerned citizens can effectively campaign for change and they should be proud of that accomplishment, but from the testimony I've heard throughout this process, it sounds like project opponents are simply in the business of saying no. It sounds like they don't believe in the necessity of plastic for medical equipment, like ventilators. That they don't realize that olefins are required to build the wind turbines and the electric vehicles of the green economy we should all be working towards.

Project opponents also seem to ignore the fact that the community of climate exists because of a balanced of industry and environment. We have paper mills and chemical factories and a steel manufacturing plant all within a few miles of each other along the Columbia River. These facilities offer real careers, including benefits that can support a family and provide for a dignified retirement. Unlike the low-wage service jobs that others have suggested are good enough. Thank you.