

Jeanne Longley

I am submitting my daughter Laurie Solomon's comments as I could not say it better. Please do not ruin our environment for financial gain! Jeanne Longley, PhD, Portland Oregon

Hello,

Here is a copy of my statement to the Department of Ecology, just in case you're interested. The link to submit your comment is at the end, should you decide to do so.

My name is Laurie Solomon. I have been going camping and fishing since I was old enough to walk and talk. I have been an acupuncturist in Clark County since 2001. I have never gone to China; I realized in the 90's that colleagues who go there for Chinese herbs, or to study with acupuncturists there, usually have upper respiratory tract problems for at least a month after they return. As a former cigarette smoker, I have never considered visiting the country where my career ostensibly originated; Throughout China, the skies are gray with Industrial Air Pollution, with Beijing reportedly filled with pay-phone like stations for people to get a few minutes of Oxygen in these booths, after depositing a few coins.

It is not a surprise that companies supported by the Chinese companies, are spending so much to convince citizens and regulators in this country to continue to supply their country with Fracked Gas. Fracked Gas is extremely harmful to the environment, along with pipelines, releasing greenhouse gases, fossil fuel spills and leaks, burning methanol as fuel in China, and the endless stream of single-use plastics.

Another consideration for me is the extreme amount of both Fracked Gas and Electricity predicted to be used by this Methanol Refinery! It seems obvious that the cost of these two commodities would go sky-high for Washington residents because we'd be competing with the Refinery for them! But many seem willing to destroy our peaceful, healthy environment, where fishing has already become less productive due to climate change, to allow transport of extracted gas through certain-to-leak pipelines passing through our state; to allow enormous amounts of Greenhouse Gas Emissions to pollute our state's air; and then to voluntarily pay more (due to high demand) for the Natural Gas, Water, and Electricity that we currently pay relatively little to use. It doesn't make any sense. And it seems very unlikely that China would give up some of its coal-powered refineries just because we in Washington decide to allow the construction of the biggest fracked-gas-to-methanol refinery in the world. There are currently wind-generating machines sitting unused in China because the conversion from coal to wind-power is too difficult for each municipality to justify building.

It is heart-breaking to realize that this proposed atrocity on the Mighty Columbia River is all about jobs, port rent receipts, tax revenue, high profits for a foreign developer, and, if truth-be-told, bribes behind-the-scenes. This is not the long-term vision needed for future generations. We, as a human species need to act now to save our planet. Subsidized fossil fuel extraction and usage is devastating this world. Now's the time to make the switch to green, renewable energy. Our state is supposed to be all about that! Cowlitz County's citizens could be put to work building light-rail or a high-speed magnetic-levitation train along the I-5 corridor from Portland to Seattle, for instance! Retraining to build solar power and use the existing pipelines to transport water are other examples of good jobs!

I hope that we can continue to count on Governor Inslee, who claims concern for the Climate Crisis, along with Laura Watson and her Department of Ecology Team, to lead the way by rejecting another Fossil Fuel Disaster. Neither Indigenous Peoples of Canada nor citizens of Kalama should be expected reside in "sacrifice zones."

Thank you for your consideration of my comment.