

## Richard Marshall

This methanol proposal is extraordinarily pessimistic. The economic analysis behind the tired fossil fuel argument of "better than the alternative" is both shoddy and speculative. There is no possible progress in this type of analysis, no faith in continued human ingenuity or creativity, no acknowledgement of technical or policy innovations.

From a policy standpoint, it is crazy to believe that societies across the globe will not demand cleaner economic processes and less pollution. Look at our own situation -- earlier this year we had an example of much cleaner air. I heard a number of people comment about how amazing it was to spy Mt Jefferson on a regular basis. And this past week, we literally have had a taste of some of the worst air pollution in the world. People everywhere want cleaner air and are going to demand of their governments less pollution.

From a technology standpoint, we can and will do better. Right now renewable energy is the cheapest form of new energy in most places in the world. What we've done with renewables is an amazing achievement of human ingenuity and hard work applied to process improvement. This methanol proposal on the other hand, is a last gasp effort of a declining industry to take advantage of excess North American fracked gas and dump it on the world markets before stricter emissions policies can be put in place. The only thing clean about this methanol proposal would be the use of our federally subsidized clean renewable electricity to run the plant. That is our energy and we have better uses including heating and cooling our homes and hopefully reducing the emissions from our cars so we can have cleaner air.

Please analyze this proposal for what it is -- an unmitigated fossil fuel export proposal with no hope of captured or sequestered emissions. Please don't rely on pessimistic speculation that lacks analytic rigor, ignores recent technical achievements in renewable energy, and dramatically discounts the basic human desire for clean air and a livable planet. Thank you.