Shana SUNDSTROM

I am adamantly opposed to the proposed Kalama methanol refinery. First, the amount of CO2 emitted by this project is staggering and unacceptable in a time of severe human-caused climate change. If elected officials do not accept that human-caused climate change is real, then such irrational and ideological folks have no business being in office. I find the idea of allowing a project like this to move forward morally repugnant, although I recognize that that is not a legitimate reason for WA to reject the refinery. Burning gas may be an improvement over coal but is a far cry from electric energy and inflicts human and environmental harms in multiple dimensions. Furthermore, virtually every EIS statement ever has underestimate the harms caused by fossil fuel projects. In part, this is because so many harms are externalized. Is the taxpayer burden from the increased health care required to treat the significant rise in asthma and other related health burdens as a result of both the direct activities of the refinery and the secondary impact of burning the gas taken into account? No. Is the long-term vulnerability of WA and the US to food, energy, and water security as a direct result of climate change accounted for? Many harms are underestimated, represent guesswork, or are simply not included. Finally, for the proponents of this project to argue that 'if we don't build it, China will', is terrible logic. Shall we also exterminate all the minke whales in order to make profit that would otherwise be harvested by Japan under the guise of 'scientific' activities? Arguing that we should do something harmful because if we don't, someone else will and they might cause even more harm, is a disgusting and immoral stance. We need to do what's right, even if no one else is. And in fact, even China is taking aggressive strides to wean themselves from fossil fuels. Please reject this refinery. It has no business in Washington, or anywhere else in this country.