

Timothy Baer

Hello,

I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts and position on this issue, even while I despair of the efficacy of the action.

Please deny this application for construction. I love my life in rural King County, WA. I believe that most of us want to see our planet continue to support thriving humanity, and that we can see the inherent contradiction with building this facility.

When we base our decisions on what the other guy (China) might do, we're on shaky ground. Clean up your own backyard, and then ask the neighbors if they will join you. Do not pretend that you are waiting for the other guy to act first, or that it's hopeless because he never will.

While humans may have an inherent bias toward negative stories, we can choose to tell each other positive stories, and work toward the reality we long for. After all, we are the ones creating all of this, together. Which side will you support? One argument seems to favor the status quo, the other is more visionary. One is powerless; the other works toward a better future.

I've heard that there are three types of falsehood: fibs, lies and (the most egregious) statistics. By your own admission the current studies are (at best) very speculative. You can just as easily create a study opposing as supporting this plant. Add upstream and downstream emissions, for example. There are many other factors to consider.

Fundamentally, the current conclusions are clearly based on untrue assumptions. e.g.: "We cannot quickly change the way we've always done things in the past." Really? Is that your experience of the worldwide response to the current pandemic? We actually CAN make wide, sweeping changes. Worldwide. We CAN stop using so much plastics and methanol, for example.

What's missing is willpower. And leadership. WA Department of Ecology can do better; can live up to its mandate. Please show the type of leadership that the overwhelming majority of humans around the world are pleading for their leaders to take. Do it for humanity (if the non-human world doesn't figure into the equation.)

It troubles me to see the disenfranchised being used as pawns in a media war waged on all of us (By the fossil-fuel industry!) to support this abomination of a plan. The plight of families who have lost their livelihood is not lost on me. Change is inevitable, though, and narrow self-interest will not serve the self in the long run.

Deny the permit!

Thank you,

--Tim Baer