

## Neal Anderson

I've heard several people make the argument that we should build this because it would be better for the climate, but if we don't build a massively polluting refinery here, someone else might build one that's even worse. It seems like a pretty weak argument anyway, but it completely ignores where we are in the climate crisis. It's way too late now for incremental improvements. Scientists are saying that to avoid catastrophic tipping points and widespread species extinction, our only hope is to rapidly decarbonize over the next few decades, shutting down existing fossil fuel refineries and eliminating all sources of climate pollution within 30 years.

Now, we're talking about building a brand new one with a 40-year lifespan, which means we're already planning to fail. Going forward with this project means giving up on trying to secure a livable future for our children. It means telling the next generation that they'll have to live with ever-worsening disasters because we lack the imagination to do anything other than build more fossil fuel refineries, and try to convince ourselves we're making improvements. It means telling them that we valued our short term economic interests over their futures.

Making a huge investment in a new fossil fuel project at this point would mean we've given up and accepted that we won't solve climate change in time, and so we've decided that we may as well profit from it. But we can do better than that. We can reject the fossil fuel industries of the past and start building a truly clean future in Washington. Thank you.