

Columbia Riverkeeper

My name is Kate Murphy and I'm a community organizer with Columbia Riverkeeper. Thank you to the Department of Ecology for your efforts in organizing these hearings. Over the course of these public hearings, we have heard overwhelming opposition to this project from community members and people from all walks of life who care about protecting the future of this region. We have heard diverse testimony from folks urging you to focus on the fact that we can reasonably and accurately predict, rather than basing this critical decision on speculative hypothetical scenarios.

You have heard from many people about the massive amount of greenhouse gas emissions that would come from this refinery, the lack of any tangible plan for mitigation, the high level of uncertainty about the speculative displacement theory, the concerns about staggering gas, electricity, and water use, the plastic already choking our oceans. You have heard many other concerns about this project, each one of which should compel you to deny the world's largest fracked gas to methanol refinery.

Now, on our last opportunity to give oral comments on this potential disaster of a plan, I feel at a bit of a loss. At a time when we need bold leadership to lessen the impending crisis, I fail to understand why the Washington Department of Ecology is even entertaining such vague and speculative scenarios. The main justification for even considering this project is based on the assumption of a catastrophic climate failure. It assumes a failure of human will and determination on a global scale.

This is a false dichotomy. Morally equivalent to offering someone a different brand of poison. There is no scenario in which approving this project actually makes sense if our shared goal is to protect the health and safety of our communities and our environment. You have all the information you need to fulfill your mission and stop this refinery from being built. If we have any hope at all, we must speculate about the good we are capable of accomplishing together when we value health, safety, in a livable future over short-term profits and empty promises. We're counting on you to do the right thing. Thank you.