

Janeen Provazek

Hi. My name is Janeen Provazek. I've been a resident of Washington State all my life. I live in Tacoma, and volunteer for 350 Tacoma; a non-profit climate organization. I am here because of my grave concern regarding the proposal for this methanol refinery. In September of 2019, thousands of top climate scientists had a climate conference. Their subsequent report and message was urgent and very clear; we have a climate emergency. If we want to have a sustainable future on this planet, we cannot keep fracking and expanding fossil fuels and expanding gas pipelines and deforesting our lands and building methanol refineries, which make plastics; the last things we need more of.

This proposed methanol plant would cause millions of tons of greenhouse gas pollution, use millions of gallons of water daily from an aquifer connected to the Columbia River, pollute the air with cancer-causing emissions, and pose a serious safety hazard during an earthquake. This is about urgency, scientific evidence, common sense, and not giving in to the immediate gratification of economics.

We are putting ourselves and future generations at serious risk by refusing to change. We need to not ignore the scientists and continue to pollute our air and land and water. We need to focus now on smarter and cleaner and sustainable ways to generate power, fuel, and products. My plea is to the Department of Ecology; please have the courage and awareness and integrity to reject the methanol refinery. Be the hero for us.