

Catherine Chudy

My name is Catherine [inaudible]. I listened carefully to all who spoke during three hearings. I was dismayed to be told that in opposing this proposed facility, I'm putting feelings over fact and ignoring science, that I rely on plastics, and I'm a hypocrite for asking our Department of Ecology to reject it on the basis of end-uses that we all need, and that I am simply advocating to keep the status quo rather than try something different.

Feelings are essential when combined with facts that clearly show how this proposal will harm rather than help us, both in the short run and especially in the decades to come. I see through the selective science advocated by proponents, intentionally misleading and misrepresenting in order to reach conclusions that will somehow justify a yes outcome. A stronger case has been made by many of us that the science when not cherry-picked, along with basic common sense compels the Department of Ecology, the guardian of our land, air, and water to do the right thing for Washington by saying no.

Plastic and methanol for fuel are end-uses that we, as stewards of the future, for our children and grandchildren, should be steering away from, rather than embracing. We can and will find alternatives that won't cost the health, safety, and quality of life for the next several generations.

As for maintaining the status quo, the Kalama proposal actually represents continuing a classic status quo that advocates business as usual, aka, pursuing obscene profits for the few over harm to the many. We are asking for trying something different. Say no to profits in light of doing no harm. I would not think to tell a child faced with a bully in front of him to let that bully land a sucker punch on his left or right eye, simply because there's probably is another meaner bully around the next corner who will do worse. We should not tolerate this kind of reasoning to justify this facility, and neither should the Department of Ecology. As Thoreau said, "The cost of a thing is the amount of what I will call life, which is required to be exchanged for it, immediately or in the long run." Thank you.