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Five years ago, my husband, Greg and I purchased what we considered to be our "dream property" in Prescott, Oregon along the Columbia river. We were married on the beach in front of our home last summer. You can see Steelscape and the proposed site of the methanol refinery in the background of our wedding pictures - that's how close we are!

Greg and I found out about the refinery plan a few years ago. We would NEVER have purchased here had we known. NOT ONCE have Prescott residents ever been directly contacted to let us know what's going on. Living just 1/2 mile, we are probably more vulnerable to health and safety risks than anyone in Kalama! There have never been any direct mailers or signs to let us know we are living in the blast zone. THIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN MANDATORY INFORMATION COMMUNICATED AT THE VERY BEGINNING STAGES. Consequently, we were denied the opportunity to engage in the initial public hearings and comment periods.

NW Innovation Works did not effectively communicate to residents when a similar plan was in place for the Port of Tacoma. When they learned about it, residents there pleaded their case and won - no methanol plant is being built there and it should not be built in Kalama either!

This is untested, "new" technology proposed by a company that has no experience building methanol plants! It would be bad enough to allow a knowledgeable company with many years of experience - at least they might have learned a few safety tips over the years...but to allow a brand new FOREIGN-BASED company to come in using us as guinea pigs? Really? How can you possibly even consider building this hazardous facility when so many lives are at risk? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

Methanol is HIGHLY TOXIC TO HUMANS AND ANIMALS. It is most dangerous when ingested but inhalation of high concentrations of vapor and absorption through the skin are just as bad for producing toxic effects. The risk for cancer and other illnesses to those of us living in Prescott will surely increase.

We understand the desire for more jobs brought into the local Kalama area, but for Prescott residents, we gain NOTHING. A recent study found property values decreased up to 11% after an industrial plant opened. Another study indicates that air pollution has a significant negative loss on home prices within a 2 mile radius of a refinery. By law we now have to disclose our knowledge if we want to sell. Would you buy a home in the blast zone directly facing a dangerous, noisy, toxic, eyesore like this?

Prescott is home to young children and the elderly, the most vulnerable to health risks resulting from air pollution. Prescott Beach is a popular county park providing exceptional fishing, windsurfing and recreational opportunities. The methanol refinery with it's 245' flare stack, vapor plumes reaching 2 1/2 miles high, new dock for tankers and 72 million gallons of on-site methanol storage would degrade the quality of Prescott Beach. Prescott citizens do not support sacrificing the health, livability, and economic future of our community to a dangerous fossil fuel export project. We ask you to advocate for our community and do everything in your power to deny the permit.

Department of Ecology, how are you going to live with yourself if you approve this, knowing the potential risks, and then there is an earthquake or some other catastrophic accident? NW Innovation Works can implement all the safety precautions they want in constructing and running this monster, but they CANNOT PREVENT HUMAN ERROR, the cause of many refinery "accidents."

Gerard Hawkins, CEO of GBK Enterprises summarizes in his presentation entitled "Methanol Plant Experiences In The Last Twenty Years" states: "If it can go wrong, it will... Apparent safe systems can fail."

Please reject the permit for building the world's largest methanol plant in our front yard.

Thank you.