

Alona Steinke

My name is Alona Seinke. I'm a retired RN from Clark County and a member of the Healthy Climate team with Physicians for Social Responsibility. What do these places have in common? Pine Ridge, South Dakota. Camden, New Jersey. Immokalee, Florida. Welch West, Virginia? These are sacrificed zones. Those areas of the country that have been offered up for exploitation in the name of profit, progress, and technical advancement. Where human beings and natural world are used and then discarded in order to maximize profit.

Methanol plants produce waste that poison the air, exacerbating and increasing the rates of asthma. Chronic respiratory diseases, cardiovascular disease, and cancer. This leads to lost wages, education interrupted, and increased hospitalization and healthcare costs. How would that be mitigated? Cowlitz County already has a high rate of asthma. The county's death rate for chronic lower respiratory disease is 54% higher than statewide.

According to the Community Needs Index scores, the rates of poverty and poor health, in general, are much higher here than in the state or nation. Kalama is seen as an easy mark for the exaggerated promise of jobs. Please deny this project, do not offer up Kalama for exploitation in the name of profit. Do not allow it to become another sacrifice. The people of Kalama are not disposable. Thank you.