

Charlotte Linton

My name is Charlotte Linton. I live in Seattle. I'm here today to ask the Department of Ecology to reject this project. As a mother of a two-year-old daughter, I'm extremely concerned about the impacts of climate change in our planet and our future. Just last week, we only had to look out our windows to see the effects with small blankets in our entire region. I had to explain to an outdoorsy toddler that she couldn't leave the house and that simply breathing the air could be harmful. I know that increased wildfire activity is just one of the many ways that climate change is harming our region, and like many of us, I'm wondering how many more things have to be explaining to the young people in our lives. This refining would produce an exorbitant amount of greenhouse gases, which we know will contribute to global climate change.

You mentioned in the analysis that the emissions for methanol production will be higher if the Kalama facility is not built, but this is purely speculation. In a changing world, it's impossible to predict the demand for methanol and over the next 40 years. Rather than trying to guess how methanol may be produced elsewhere, we should concentrate on what's happening in our own state. This level of pollution is totally inconsistent with Washington's climate goals. We need to be leading the way in the transition to a clean energy future, not investing more fossil fuel infrastructure.

The environmental impact statement mentions that Northwest Innovation Works intends to fully mitigate the impacts of the project. However, this will be accomplished through a voluntary mitigation framework for which there are very sparse details. With no plans for specific projects or measures they intend to take, how are you going to hold them accountable? With so much at stake for our communities and our environment, we cannot simply trust that this corporation will be true to their word. If we wanted to >> curb the effects of climate change, we need to start with our own state and our own communities. By rejecting this project, the Department of Ecology has the power to make a huge, positive impact for the next generation of Washingtonians, help us to protect, preserve, and enhance our environment. Thank you for your time.