

Liam Doucet

My name is Liam Doucet. I am 18 years old and here on behalf of myself and my family who live in the city of Portland, Oregon. That said, I do hold a volunteer position at Historic Pearson Airfield in the city of Vancouver, Washington. I am here because I strongly oppose the plan to build a methanol refinery next to the Columbia River, and on top of the land indigenous nations call home and rightfully so. The threat that the facility will pose to the Northwest and its people is nothing short of catastrophic.

A vibrant ecosystem of animals and people both along the Columbia and even way up North, as far as the sailors see rely on the Columbia River to bring salmon, which is now at risk of extinction because of the lower Snake River dams. A methanol refinery built will end up sealing a deadly fate for all salmon either before or when the leak happens. Yes, I do mean when not if. Looking at the history of methanol plants and frankly, all chemical plants in this country, negligence, and abuse seems to be a common factor when a disaster happens.

Unfortunately, not every single worker at this facility will be competent enough to make sure all systems work properly. If I learned anything from what happened 36 years ago in the city of Bhopal, India it's that failing safety systems is a classic blunder that happens with almost all American-owned refineries. At least 16,000 civilians were claimed dead the night an American chemical refinery operated by American workers released toxic vapor into the skies of India when its neglected fail-safe broke. The people of the nations native to Kalama would be the very first ones to be hit by any spill or vapor release which will severely injure and kill thousands of them and eventually even kill or seriously injure a large American population only 30 minutes from the proposed refinery which my family and I are part of.

Despite the country I was born in supporting the finest military in the world, I doubt that they're willing to hand out any kind of modern treatment or protective gear to those who would be affected. To whoever is responsible for the creation of this refinery, there's no doubt that you won't provide for those people affected. You decided to build the largest refinery on earth next to these people and didn't even ask them which says a lot about how much--

>> Hi, Liam, you're going to have to provide the rest of your comments in writing and we'll go ahead and go over that information at the end of the hearing.