

Caroline Ceravolo

Hi, my name is Caroline Ceravolo and I'm a 16-year-old from Ridgefield, Washington. Yesterday the wildfire smoke again reached our house, making our air unhealthy to breathe. It's better than last week, I guess, when we were thankful that the air quality was only hazardous, instead of so hazardous that it's off the chart. The scientific consensus is that this is made worse by global warming. I have heard that this methanol refinery is supposed to help with climate change. Do they mean help climate change or help fight climate change?

I know I'm only 16, but I know that adding methane to our atmosphere is not how to reduce greenhouse gases. You reduce greenhouse gas emissions by pulling fossil fuels out of our economy, not by building an additional fossil fuel facility, to say otherwise is magical thinking. If you allow for this facility, you are helping climate change, you are rooting for it.

When I am the age of our president, it will be the year 2076. By then we will be way past all the deadlines of getting rid of fossil fuels from our economy. Will you still be alive? What areas in the United States will be habitable considering the preponderance of drought, wildfire, flooding, hurricanes, sea-level rise, and storms so intense that we have only seen in Hollywood movies? Where will be livable for me? Because as bad as 2020 has seemed, this will be considered the good old days.

Our atmosphere hasn't even warmed to the degree it will from all the greenhouse gases currently living in our atmosphere. This is what you're leaving kids like me with. I have no position of power, but you do. Sometimes it's hard to do the right thing. I'm sure if you reject the permit for the methanol refinery, you'll get sued, you can make people mad, but at least you should be able to sleep at night. At least you will send my generation the message that you do understand science and that you do see us. You'll be giving us a chance to clean up the messes left by your generation and those ahead of you, because if you allow this methanol refinery to operate, you are burying my future. Thank you for hearing my testimony.