

Jean Avery

>> Good evening, this is Jean Avery, I'm a resident of Vancouver. It is important to remember the history of this place we call home. The area we're talking about is the ancestral homeland of Native Americans. Indigenous peoples continue to honor Mother Earth through sustainable stewardship and cultural traditions. Natural areas and wildlife in Southwest Washington are at risk with the NWIW project because of air pollution and increased vessel traffic.

Several of these natural areas are designated as IBAs, Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas. IBAs are internationally recognized as globally important for the conservation of bird populations. The Washington State Birding Trail includes these IBAs close to Kalama. JB Hansen National Wildlife Refuge, 6,000 acres of Columbia River islands and slews, Chinook County Park and the 1,900 acre Cape Disappointment State Park, Richfield National Wildlife Refuge, 5,000 acres of wetlands, grasslands, and woodlands. Also Vancouver Lake Park and Columbia River lowlands.

The NWIW plant would degrade the area's air and water threatening natural areas and wildlife. Yet none of these significant impacts are included in the SSEIS. I would like to end with this Native American proverb. Listen to the wind, it talks. Listen to the silence, it speaks. Listen to your heart, it knows. Thank you, and good evening.