

Sharon Miller

Good morning, everyone. I'm Sharon Miller, a lifetime resident of the state of Washington, currently living in Vancouver. I am strongly committed to preserving our environment for my family, including six grandchildren who are learning of the devastating changes we see daily from the changing climate. What we hear from scientists is being validated by what we are seeing, the smoke we are breathing, the documentaries we view and the news reports, which are quite frankly frightening.

As a young child I lived in Longview, Washington, and I knew of Kalama as the small Riverside community, which featured Keith Liliska, who carved totem poles and clear view from the freeway. His totems are now displayed very near the side of the proposed Northwest innovation works methanol refinery. The tallest totem is 140 feet tall and is reportedly the tallest single strand carved from one single tree totem in the world. Not only is this totem a reminder of the native people who live and have rights to this land, but also to the trees that were thriving there when he was carving.

We are now aware of a proposed foreign company locating in this community that will produce upstream pollution exceeding 1 million tons of greenhouse gas pollution each year, and 5 million tons of additional greenhouse gas pollution in Kalama. Why would we allow this? This is totally counter to our State's efforts to move towards a clean energy economy.

I am calling on the department of ecology to reject the methanol refinery and deny the shorelines permit for this project. Right now is the time to protect our communities for our children. Thank you for this hearing today that empowers all of us to have input into your decision and thank you for doing the right thing.