

Rachel Haxtema

Dear WA Department of Ecology,

As a person of faith, I believe we are called to care for both the well-being of communities and the environment.

As a mother, aunt and friend to small children, I am deeply concerned that we are not investing in a cleaner future for our children and their children. We are seeing the intense and horrific result of climate change mixed with bad policies for our forests and environment and we need to make change now. Fracked gas is not the answer for my family, for our community and for our world. While we are annoyed and experiencing headaches and sore throats from fires this summer, children in other parts of the world are dying from the effects of climate change. As a Christian, I am called to care for my neighbors - here in Tacoma and Washington and my neighbors in the Pacific Islands with rising seas who are becoming refugees, my neighbors in states with fracking poisoning the water and my neighbors all over the world experiencing rising temperatures and intense storms and disasters and so much more.

As a Washingtonian, I'm proud that our state is responding in small ways and trying to make better choices. We need you to take the lead to act now on yet another fossil fuel project that is not good for us locally and not good for our whole world.

Building the world's largest fracked gas-to-methanol plant in Washington does not align with my personal values of stewardship and justice, nor does it support our state's commitment to reducing climate pollution. Please reject Northwest Innovation Work's proposed methanol refinery in Kalama and deny its Shorelines Permit.

The second Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Kalama methanol refinery clearly shows that this project is dirty, dangerous, and unwise. If built, our state will be locked into decades of additional climate pollution, even though we know it is past time to pursue a truly low-carbon future. Speculating that this project may displace other fossil fuels is not adequate justification for the known pollution that will harm our communities and climate.

Northwest Innovation Works has demonstrated that they are deceptive and will seek profit over people's wellbeing. They cannot be trusted to mitigate the impacts of this fracked gas refinery. The fact that the project has needed three reviews, with outspoken community opposition during each, shows that there is something wrong with it at its core. As Governor Inslee stated, we cannot support such fracked gas projects in good conscience.

You have a moral responsibility to protect public health and reduce our region's climate pollution. Please do what is right and deny this project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ms. Rachel Haxtema

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