

My name is Meccah Boynton-Brown. I am a resident of southwest Washington, and I have very big concerns about the impacts and health consequences on the people and land in Kalama, the surrounding cities and counties, the state, our waterways, and the air with the proposed methanol refinery and any future dirty energy corporations. It is not a secret that energy companies mislead the public. They are responsible for the inevitable damage and destruction to our precious land and they disregard the cost and detriment to humanity.

About ten years ago, my husband was on the Deepwater Horizon oil rig when it exploded into the Gulf of Mexico. I want to believe that everyone in this country knows about this tragic environmental and ecological disaster, but surprisingly they do not. As a reminder, it was an industrial disaster that began on April 20, 2010, and considered to be the largest marine oil spill in the history of the petroleum industry. It leaked for almost 90 days and is still believed to be leaching oil from the fractured surface on the ocean floor today. The fishing and tourism industry was devastated, 11 men lost their lives that day, several have life-long injuries, including my husband who is still suffering from the “**accident**” today. I say accident with quotation marks because it was preventable. BP, Transocean, and Haliburton were responsible for their gross negligence and willful misconduct. Nobody was charged for the deaths of those on board that night, and the companies involved may have had to pay fines and restitutions, but they don’t heal the damage that was created. They continue to profit in the billions, despite their record for irresponsibility.

Almost 2 years ago, my parents lost their home and every treasured possession in the Paradise, California fires due to the admitted negligence of PG&E. 85 people died in that fire, over 11,000 residential properties were burned, and in total, about 19,000 structures were lost, devastating a community and creating a toxic environmental problem for several generations. A cancer-causing chemical, benzene, has tainted the town's water, leaving it undrinkable. My understanding is that only a couple dozen homes have been rebuilt, and the residents still have to transport clean, bottled water to their homes. I was in Paradise a few months ago, and there are still churches and road-side stations to pick up water. The local water company declares that there are areas that you can utilize the water, but they are apologetic that the water doesn’t have their “normal fresh flavor” and they know there is a “musty odor”. They dodge responsibility by adding a statement...The following water system information is prepared and updated by PID and is subject to revision. PID does not guarantee the accuracy of this information nor its fitness for a particular use. Would you drink the water? How many are now relocated, homeless, and facing health issues? PG&E filed for voluntary bankruptcy protection in anticipation for the impact of billions of dollars in liability claims for one of California's deadliest wildfires. PG&E now has more than \$50 billion in liabilities, and we know that will not make the people and the land whole again. This too, was preventable.

For years I have sat in on legal hearings, government meetings, even going to Washington D.C. to watch my husband testify to the Senate about the problems with the energy industries and the impact. It doesn’t take a genius to know that greed is the prominent factor. Fossil fuel companies will spew deceptive narratives, including promises to ensure responsible emissions and economic contributions that they really can’t calculate. They promise jobs, which decline year to year, and tax revenues that are usually far from accurate. There are daily implications of pollution and damage, but I am also concerned for the large-scale, preventable incidents of human miscalculations that permanently scar our lungs and landscape. I, like many that are speaking in reference to the proposal in Kalama, could speak for hours and debate the facts and impacts. We have legitimate concerns and heart-felt interests that do not line our pockets.

The energy created by outdated technologies of oil, gas, and coal industries need to be eliminated. The proposed methanol refinery in Kalama, or anywhere in the Pacific Northwest is unwelcome. We need renewable resources that will sustain our future and the generations to come. I am asking the Department of Ecology to **deny** the Kalama Manufacturing and Marine Export Facility.