

Bonnie McKinley

My name is Bonnie McKinley. I call on the Washington State Department of Ecology to reject Northwest Innovation Works' misguided plans and deny the shorelines permit. I live across the Big River in Portland. I live close enough to Kalama to have been present for almost five years of public hearings and gatherings there. I have listened to local voices plead to their governing agencies and elected officials, "Protect our town, protect our riverbanks, protect our hillside community." That is your calling. That was your promise.

I live just 40 miles from the proposed methanol refinery, but my own proximity to it isn't my concern. What matters is that I live on Earth, a climate-destroyed planet, where physical and natural realities are emerging with force. We see it, we know it, we hear it bellowing from forests to coastlines, from diminishing glaciers to wind-ravaged and flooding communities. Washington State should not be scooped up in a whacked plan leading them away from science. Washington State, aware of the social and economic benefits of a healthy natural system, must not embrace this climate folly, this Kalama methanol refinery.

What if Northwest Innovation Works succeeds in securing permission? What lies ahead? We know. When increasing deluge and drought finally convince humans to put away their fossil fuel schemes, what will Kalama [inaudible] on this riverbank? At best, an empty, mega facility and a crushed community. It can be so different. We have the direction to clean renewable energy and employment opportunities far better than the crooked, hazardous tasks Northwest Innovation Works pays for us.

I call on the Washington State Department of Ecology to reject Northwest Innovation Works misguided plans and deny the shoreline's permit. Protect Kalama, protect its people, protect our special planet. Thank you.