Patricia Kullberg

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition to the proposed methanol refinery. My name is Patricia Kohlberg. I am a retired physician and public health official and a lifelong resident of the Pacific Northwest. I recently spent a week confined to my home in Portland, because the smoke-filled air outside was too hazardous to breathe. Climate change is upon us now, for this reason, I find the draft SSEIS a shockingly reckless document at a time when we should be pulling out all stops to avert climate disaster.

This analysis represents nothing more than business as usual. The analysis makes a number of unsupportable claims, including highly speculative assumptions about market trends. Worse, it forecloses on the very opportunities we have to save our way of life in the Pacific Northwest. First to assume that at most 40% of the methanol will be marketed as fuel is a fantasy. Northwest Innovation Works will market their methanol in whatever way they can to turn a profit, even if that means 100% of their product is used as fuel.

To assume that the market for methanol will continue to grow unabated assumes that we will never have another pandemic. That there will be global economic stability and that the regulatory environment or remain unchanged. Current reality suggests that none of these are likely scenarios. Third and most egregious of all is the total lack of consideration for true alternatives to the climate destroying fossil fuels. Coal-based production of plastics in China should not be our benchmark. Anything better than coal is not the policy that will spare the planet. Thank you.