

Marianna Grossman

September 22, 2020

Kalama Manufacturing and Marine Export Facility Public Hearing testimony

Dear Mr. Zenk:

Thank you to you and your Ecology Dept. colleagues for setting up hearings. Here is the text of what I presented verbally this evening.

I am Marianna Grossman. I live in Portland Oregon. I strongly oppose this plant and agree with the concerns others have expressed about the climate and pollution costs of this refinery.

The State of Washington must meet its climate goals and set an example for other states so that humanity has a chance of limiting global warming to 1.5C. We can see that our current trajectory is already resulting in catastrophic fires, storms, smoke and enormous social, environmental and economic costs.

I am troubled by the unnecessary conflict expressed today between good paying jobs and human and environmental health and well being.

One example of a community that shifted from fossil fuels to locally produced bio and renewable energy is Gussing a small town in Austria, near the Hungarian border. Now they produce high quality jobs in clean energy production, technology research and innovation. They even had to build a hotel to support visitors coming to study their transformation and the technology and economic models they innovated. We should do this in our region too. We can increase forestry and agricultural jobs as well as technology and hospitality jobs by investing in all of our futures.

The initial investment in Gussing's transformation came from a combination of sources: the EU, the Austrian Department of Environment, local government and private investors.

The region went from out-migration for work and spending on fossil fuels to innovative new businesses, including an eco-industrial system where waste saw dust from the veneer/furniture plant is used to power heat for the noodle factory which uses eggs from local chickens and creates zero CO2 noodles, as one example.

Here is information about Gussing achieving zero GHG emissions.
<https://www.100-percent.org/gussing-austria/>

Here is more information about the technology and economic impact of their regional transformation.
https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/austria/new-formula-for-renewables-revolutionises-gussing

To quote the European Union website report this has been a profitable investment:

"The plant gets around 15 euro cent per kWh for its electricity. This is much less than the price, around 25 euro cent, being paid by domestic consumers in the area. It is estimated that this plant, together with another wood-fired heating system with a capacity of 42 MW, means that €18 million stays in the district each year that would otherwise have leaked out. This represents massive return on investment.

The availability of cheap heat (30% cheaper) has led to over 1,000 new jobs being created in and around the town, including 100 in a new office building on an industrial estate which

houses the European Centre for Renewable Energy. This employs 12 people itself and the other people renting space in the building are mostly from companies or consultancies to do with renewable energy. One of the centre's activities is arranging visits for the increasing number of visitors who come to see what G♠ssing has done, an activity which itself creates employment in hotels and restaurants.

By making the switch from fossil fuels to renewables, the people of G♠ssing are now more than self-sufficient for electricity and heat."

They raise agricultural crops for biomass as well as using cultivation techniques to remove excess vegetation from surrounding forests and strategically located solar energy generation, as well.

This transformation was designed to lift the well-being of all the residents of this small town and rural community. We should do the same in our own communities.

Sincerely yours,

Marianna Grossman
Portland, OR