

Jordan Van Voast

My name is Jordan Van Voast. I'm a licensed acupuncturist and member of 350 Seattle. I urge you to reject the permit application for the Kalama Manufacturing and Marine Export Facility, which is based upon a flawed and incomplete analysis of negative impacts not only to the local environment, but to the global climate. 2020 is on track to be one of the warmest years on record. This summer's historic wildfire season with mega fires still burning in California, Oregon, and Washington have thus far killed at least 37 people, burned six million acres and blanketed hundreds of thousands of square miles with a plume of thick, toxic smoke that was tracked as far as Europe; 5,000 miles away.

Health experts recommended everyone in Seattle to stay indoors for 11 days. But even with high-quality indoor air filters, many of my clients reported negative effects. How many people living unsheltered died or are still ill from the smoke? Nobody tracks those numbers so we will never know. These fires are a direct consequence of human-caused climate change, and the impacts are always going to be inequitable.

The proposed construction of this facility contradicts Washington State's climate goals and will accelerate the climate emergency. As we enter the Anthropocene, when actions of decision-makers like yourselves will determine whether human civilization will survive another generation or two, I urge you to listen to the cries of Mother Earth. Please act boldly and with conscience to reject this permit. Help Washington State become a true climate leader by exercising leadership while we still have a little time left. Thank you very much.