

Greetings,

My name is Desiree Hellegers. I teach at WSU Vancouver and am affiliated faculty with the Collective for Social and Environmental Justice. I am writing to express my strenuous opposition to the massive fracked gas to methanol plant proposed for Kalama. In the wake of the wildfires this summer, as smoke filled the Pacific Northwest, as the AQI skyrocketed over 500, I found myself wearing a paint respirator to simply walk to the curb with the recycling, and looking warily at our lovingly tended vegetable garden where for days the fuzzy leaves of a sage plant had been steeped in smoke and toxic particulate matter. Is this the dystopian and wholly avoidable future that we want for ourselves and our children? For the Pacific Northwest, one of the most beautiful regions in the U.S., a magnet for ecotourism and the “creative class” to be home to the world’s largest methanol plant that will create millions of tons of greenhouse pollution, drain aquifers and destroy the ecology and beauty of the region? For these fossil fuels to continue to the rising temperatures of the Columbia River and the inevitable salmon die offs? What do we imagine ourselves eating and drinking in the future? While coal and oil are verging on going belly up and receive billions in bail outs, while wind and solar are growing exponentially? Just say no to this monstrous proposal and let’s get on with the business of building green sustainable industries and living wage jobs in this region. The future is sustainable or there is no future!

Sincerely,

Desiree Hellegers, Ph.D.