

Cathryn Chudy

I listened carefully to all who spoke during three virtual hearings. I was dismayed to be told that in opposing this proposed facility I am putting feelings over facts and ignoring science, that I rely on plastics and am a hypocrite for asking our Dept. of Ecology to reject it on the basis of end uses that we all need, and that I am simply advocating to keep the status quo rather than "try something different."

Feelings are essential when combined with facts that clearly show how this proposal will harm rather than help us, both in the short run and especially in the decades to come.

I see through the selective "science" advocated by proponents, that intentionally misleads and misrepresents, in order to reach conclusions that will somehow justify a "YES" outcome. A stronger case has been made by many of us that the "science," when not "cherry-picked, along with basic common sense, compels the Department of Ecology (the guardian of our land, air and water) to do the right thing for Washington by saying "NO" to both the Shoreline Permit and the proposed facility.

Plastic and methanol for fuel are end uses that we as stewards of the future for our children and grandchildren should be steering away from, rather than embracing. We can and will find alternatives that won't cost the health, safety and quality of life for the next seven generations.

As for maintaining the status quo, the Kalama proposal actually represents continuing a toxic "status quo" that advocates "business as usual, aka pursuing obscene profits for the few over harm to the many. We are asking for trying something different - saying "no" to fossil fuel profits in light of doing no harm.

Finally, I would not think to tell a child faced with a bully in front of him to let that bully land a sucker punch on his left or right eye, simply because there probably is another meaner bully around the next corner who will do worse. We should not tolerate this kind of reasoning to justify this facility, and neither should the Department of Ecology.

I urge you to deny the Shorelines Permit and ultimately reject the facility itself.

As Henry David Thoreau said:

"The cost of a thing is the amount of what I will call life which is required to be exchanged for it, immediately or in the long run."