

## Margie Van Cleve

Hello, my name is Margie Van Cleve. I live in Seattle, Washington. Why does someone from Yakima County care about the proposed Kalama methanol plant? On August 31st, the Evans Canyon Fire started. By evening of September 1st, I could see the glow from that fire to the north of our house. Later that evening, we received the first evacuation warning from Yakima County Emergency Management. By Labor Day, the fire had grown to 75,000 acres. Luckily, we did not need to evacuate and firefighters did amazing work.

We planned to go camping in a national forest after Labor Day, but cancelled due to high fire danger. Instead, we rescheduled for the Central Oregon Coast because, hey, it's always beautiful there in September, right? We made it to Newport, Oregon before deciding camping was a bad idea due to the hazardous air quality from the Beachie Creek Fire. Instead, we went to our friend's home in Springfield, Oregon. Within four hours of arriving, we began getting evacuation alerts from Lane County Emergency Preparedness for the Holiday Farm Fire. The next day, we assisted our friend in preparing for evacuation that luckily never came. We looked at the orange sky and watched the ever-present ash fall the entire time we remained in Springfield. I hope I never have to see anything like that again. We were back in Seattle by September 10th, restricted to indoors for the next eight days due to hazardous air quality from smoke and fires.

What does this have to do with proposed Kalama methanol plant? Everything. Governor Inslee called the fires climate fires, not wildfires. Erica Fleishman, Director of the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, noted this fits into a many-year Western United States pattern of more large fires and more destructive fires. I don't want best wishes or thoughts and prayers about fires. I want action. Action means a decrease in the burning of hydrocarbons and a decrease in emissions from greenhouse gases.

Instead, the proposed Kalama methanol plant increases by a huge amount the burning of hydrocarbons, and increases by millions of tons per year for 40 years, greenhouse gas emissions that will contribute to still more climate change. I urge the Department of Ecology to reject the refinery. Thank you.