

Lacey Breton

I urge you to deny this permit for the methanol refinery, and here's why. Look, folks, we just lived through two weeks, only two weeks of toxic air and we could see it. We can smell it. We knew it was there. None of us could leave our houses unless it was absolutely urgent, unless we had a job that we had to go outside, but kids were stuck inside. The methanol refinery will do the same thing as the forest fires just did. We won't be able to see it, but it'll be there. The promise of permanent local jobs is a mirage.

I've had experience working with community colleges and developing and maintaining their education programs. A program in Cowlitz County at the local University here is unsustainable, both in a steady stream of qualified candidates and in funding. Who's going to train these, "Local employees" for permanent jobs? For those of us who are from this area, I live in Kalama. For those of you rather who support this project, I certainly don't, where are we going to go? Who's going to help us when there's an accident. Not if, but when, because anyone who promises -and we should all know this as adults- anyone who promises that there's not going to be any accidents, he's literally lying because, how can they know? They can't.

I was talking to Rosemary a couple of weeks ago in the midst of the election. I asked her why she was supporting this project and she said she wanted to show that Cowlitz County can handle large and complex problems like this. I had to say, "Rosemary, why do you think they came here when they failed elsewhere? It's because they're looking for politicians who are inexperienced in this kind of project and wouldn't know any better." China has lied and misled about the end use of this project, and that should be a red flag to us all.

Look, I would like a high paying job too close to my house, but I'm not going to ask for it at the expense of the health of my neighbors. I care about you too much to support this project.