

Caleb Warden

Having spent my whole life here in the PNW, I know just how valuable our beautiful lands are. From the mountains, to the deserts, to the oceans, to the forests, we certainly have an abundance of natural beauty worth fighting to the death to protect from outside threats. In a time when petroleum product consumption is on the decline in favor of more environmentally-friendly means of power and manufacturing, opening a new fracking plant on the gorgeous Pacific Coast is simply an unwise investment. It doesn't take an expert to see that plastic waste is a big problem for the environment in the form of litter and microplastics in our water, soil, food, and even our bodies. Clearly building more plastic infrastructure is not what we need; we're already producing so much plastic that we can't control it all. Then you compound the problem of plastic waste with fracking, a process that not only perpetuates the system of environmental damage by providing fuel for combustion engines and pumping our ground full of toxic chemicals, but also has been shown to increase the risk of earthquake. In an area overdue for a very devastating earthquake, this seems like a rather irresponsible decision. Further, what is the plant's plan to ensure there are no spills in the event of a severe earthquake? Heck, even when there aren't any earthquakes, spills are common in the petroleum industry. Can NIW promise the people of the PNW and anyone who comes to enjoy our lovely beaches that there will be no spills? All considered, this could spell an irreversible environmental disaster that only pays out for a decade or two at most. What reasonable person could consider that an acceptable compromise or a wise investment?