

Jan Ruud

Dear WA Department of Ecology,

As a person of faith, I believe we are called to care for both the well-being of communities and the environment.

During my twenty years as pastor of a lutheran congregation in Tacoma, I have sought opportunities to stand with those who are the most vulnerable in our community, including human beings, fish and wildlife, and the fragile creation around us. I am especially mindful of the great harm and offense this proposed project represents to our sisters and brothers of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. In my advocacy with them, I have also listened to scientists in my congregation who have helped me understand the devastating effects of fracked gas overall and reject the false claims that it represents our best option.

Building the world's largest fracked gas-to-methanol plant in Washington does not align with my personal values of stewardship and justice, nor does it support our state's commitment to reducing climate pollution. Please reject Northwest Innovation Work's proposed methanol refinery in Kalama and deny its Shorelines Permit.

The second Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Kalama methanol refinery clearly shows that this project is dirty, dangerous, and unwise. If built, our state will be locked into decades of additional climate pollution, even though we know it is past time to pursue a truly low-carbon future. Speculating that this project may displace other fossil fuels is not adequate justification for the known pollution that will harm our communities and climate.

Northwest Innovation Works has demonstrated that they are deceptive and will seek profit over people's wellbeing. They cannot be trusted to mitigate the impacts of this fracked gas refinery. The fact that the project has needed three reviews, with outspoken community opposition during each, shows that there is something wrong with it at its core. As Governor Inslee stated, we cannot support such fracked gas projects in good conscience.

You have a moral responsibility to protect public health and reduce our region's climate pollution. Please do what is right and deny this project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jan Ruud

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