

# Mike Reuter

I am speaking here as an individual and not as the Mayor of Kalama.

The concerns that I have is that there are two major deciding factors when it comes to tax revenues for the state and county coffers.

One of the major factors in deciding valuations of this refinery would be based on its capacity to generate income in the future. If this refinery sits idle like most of the methanol production was in America did only a decade ago, there would be significant disruptions in tax revenues. The methanol facilities were closed for years, and some just only recently started operating again.

The fossil fuels that methanol is made from would play a major part in the future of this refinery. Natural gas, oil, coal, and methanol market prices are all extremely volatile. Prices and the supply and demand for this product would fluctuate daily. The refinery would depend on almost all of these fuel types since Asia will buy methanol from the lowest producer, and they can source the methanol easily from any or all of these feedstocks.

There are other major factors that are not under our control are in Canada, where all of this natural gas is coming from including fracking regulations, tariffs, and other environmental concerns.

The second factor is based on the improved values of the property itself. It decreases substantially every year due to diminishing values.

We need to use this land for a project that produces more than 1.2 permanent jobs per acre after factoring in mitigation for this refinery. We also need to build the facilities here, not in another country, and assemble it when it arrives.

Cowlitz County leadership needs to stop hoping for a large, heavy industrial user or a massive fossil fuel company to save it. The Cowlitz County Economic Council needs to get businesses that would add a more secure economic engine to the county.

The day I knew that the county was in trouble was when the newsletter of a local business magazine said that Cowlitz County is looking forward to three things in the coming years.

1. The coal terminal.
2. The marijuana industry.
3. The methanol refinery.

If you went to any other city or county in the state and said that this is what the county is looking forward to, they would vote you out as fast as humanly possible.