

Lauren Cannon

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.

As a parent, educator, and pastor, I cannot possibly stand by as a refinery comes in to the land we love, and the air we breathe. As wildfires burn, we know there is no more time for gas and profits, divorced from the impact they will have on our lives. When Jesus had to speak against the powerful systems of his day, that many assumed to be a given, he risked to make a way that cared for those at the margins. We already know that fracked gas hurts people, and that many coastal communities are already displaced, and are already witnesses to how rising seas from our warming planet, will destroy more lives. Gas will add climate pollution. Instead we are now pushed to proactively build sustainable energy systems. Inherent in this moral imperative is investing in a livable future that especially helps those at the edges to thrive.

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,
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