

Cambria Keely

My name is Cambria Keely, I am 18 years old in my fourth year of my Bachelor's in ecology at Western Washington University, and I have been protesting the proposed refinery for a quarter of my life.

I was recently asked by a reporter about what moved me to get involved with the protest against this refinery. The answer is that fear, anger, and disbelief morphed into a feeling of responsibility to protect my hometown. Kalama and Cowlitz County officials have made it very clear that their priority is monetary profit, not protecting their constituents, thus it becomes our duty to protect ourselves and those around us by representing the community to decision-makers such as yourselves.

My companions and I have collectively committed thousands of precious hours, day and night, on holidays and birthdays, to defeating this calamity. One of my friends and fellow activists, Chris Turner, who spent decades fighting the climate crisis and frequented these very methanol hearings with her powerful testimonies, recently spent the last few hours of her life ensuring that her research would continue to spur the fight. I know she would be here tonight if she could, explaining the proper calculation of statistics in the DSSEIS.

I am telling you this to emphasize that we are not here for fun, we're here because we need to ensure that Washington is headed for a carbon-negative future. Climate legislature must be extensively considered and respected.

Every time I visit my 93-year-old grandfather, he asks me when I plan to start a family, and how many kids I want to raise. I tell him I'd like to have one or two kids in my 30's. What I don't tell him is that I'm terrified of what the world will look like in 20-30 years. Will the next generation know what it's like to have a snow day, and let raindrops fall on their tongue, and get a bird's-eye view of the world from the top of a tree? I can't imagine who I would be if the outdoors weren't pure enough for me to have those experiences. Will my children have to wear a mask everywhere to decrease their pollutant inhalation, and gape in disbelief at history books which show photos of a clean, healthy Columbia River?

Article 25, Section 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family." I cannot in good conscience pass onto my children the burden of spending every day fighting for basic human rights.

We will not allow ignorance of the consequences of the construction of the world's largest methanol refinery in Kalama because if this project is permitted, the consequences are unavoidable: pollution of the biggest river in our region and vital ecosystems that rely upon it, the release of toxins into our air that is usually clean and healthy, and the exertion of powerful and plentiful greenhouse gases.

Change cannot wait. It is your mission to preserve, protect, and enhance our ecology and we are counting on you to quash this fossil fuel project. We believe that we can do better than to enforce a

fossil-gas dependent economy. Once again, I am here to ask you with utmost earnestness to please deny the shorelines permits for the proposed Kalama fracked-gas-to-methanol refinery.

[Expanded comments from those given in oral testimony on 9/22/2020.]