

Mary Elizabeth Theil

My name is Mary Elizabeth Thiel, and I'm a Kalama, Washington resident. Last year, my husband and I became new parents and we're excited to raise our daughter in this community where the people are friendly and hardworking. This area allows us to be in an ideal location where we can be close to nature and enjoy all the outdoor activities. This is including but not limited to fishing, hiking, boating, kayaking.

Many of these activities utilize materials that are made from synthetics not to mention the clothes we currently wear, the technology I'm using to speak with you now, and the PPE we are currently required for our safety. Stating that we need to move away from plastics is hypocritical at best as I know other items such as car seats, hospital equipment, piping and or tires, just as much as the rest of us do. The materials needed to manufacture these items comes from China and other parts of the world that is out of view from our watchful eye.

We are presented now with an opportunity I cannot ignore to make a positive impact in our world to reduce GHGs. Just as the smoke from our fires in our region spread around the world so does the pollution created from the production methods currently used around the world. I support Northwest Innovation Works and their project. Their project puts the town of Kalama and the State of Washington in a position to be a leader in creating cleaner resources with technology that is groundbreaking while creating a cleaner world.

If Northwest Innovation Works project hadn't been delayed these past four years, and when the Department of Ecology's best estimate should be believed we could have saved the world a projected 24 million tons of GHGs. I commend the Department of Ecology for their hard work competing their independent SEIS, which also proves North Innovation Works mission. Here I am now pleading with you to pass this permit to allow Northwest Innovation Works to start building this project.

We are tired of waiting and are ready to make a change that can be felt around the world while supporting our community. My husband and I want to leave our daughter a world that is better than it is now. One that not only has cleaner air but it's full of hope and opportunity.