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Comments regarding the proposed methanol plant in Kalama:

The proposed methanol plant in Kalama would be an ecological disaster for our entire planet. It would cause millions of tons of greenhouse gas pollution, use millions of gallons of water from an aquifer connected to the Columbia River each day, pollute the air with cancer-causing emissions, and pose safety hazards during an earthquake. The refinery would use more fracked gas than all the gas-fired power plants in Washington, combined, meaning the refinery would induce new fracked gas pipeline expansions throughout the region, or require even more dangerous oil and gas trains to bring this dangerous material through the Columbia River Gorge.

As Americans, we need to be looking forward to the future. Fossil fuels are the energy of the past, they will not continue to sustain our nation or our planet. The rest of the world has begun to awaken to the realities of climate change. China, India, the EU, are all realizing the economic disaster, not to mention the human toll that climate change will cause. Those markets may look flush now, but they are all moving towards a truly clean energy future. China, for example, has enacted some of the most stringent emissions standards in the world, and they continue to tighten those standards each year. 50% of all new construction in China must meet a strict and well defined "green standard", and they have developed policies that incentivize local municipalities adoption of greater use of renewable energy sources.

Building the world's largest methanol plant on the shores of the Columbia River would be continuing to deny and ignore the real impacts of global climate change. It endangers the health and safety of millions of people who live, work and play in this rich watershed. It claims to create jobs, but those jobs are not the kind of jobs that will sustain the community in Kalama, or in Washington long term as the world is moving away from use of fossil fuels making the need for such a plant obsolete. The total ecological impact of such a project is enormous: damage to land and ground water caused by fracking, degradation of air quality caused by emissions from fracked gas and the process of turning that gas into other products, vast amounts of carbon dumped into our atmosphere driving global temperatures to increase, plastics that survive on this planet centuries longer than the humans who use them.