

## Judith Bartholomew

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Judith Bartholomew. There was a time when Cowlitz County was a thriving and vital area with low unemployment and good health ratings, but in the recent past, those once low unemployment levels have continued to rise. Poverty is highly correlated with a community's physical and spiritual health. In my over 30 years working in the mental health field, I have seen how our high levels of unemployment have contributed to increasing levels of stress, depression, and substance abuse.

The NWIW methanol facility in Kalama will create 1,000 construction jobs, 200 permanent high-wage jobs, and over 500 indirect jobs. It will have a significant positive impact, not only for those who get these jobs but on the entire community. Thank you.