

Joseph Stenger

To the Department of Ecology,

I appreciate the opportunity to submit comments regarding the Kalama Manufacturing and Marine Export Facility Second Supplemental EIS. As a grandparent, a family doctor, and a very concerned citizen, I am firmly opposed to this project.

The arguments put forth in the EIS in favor of this project justify the environmental impact by presuming that the products of this project would prevent more severe fossil fuel pollution. In fact, this project would accelerate generation of fracked gas, causing much more climate-damaging pollution than at present. Despite the presumptive calculations in the EIS, there is no possible plausible justification for building a large plant to process fracked gas with the excuse that this will improve our environment. The arguments do not meet the believability standard. The climate is worsening rapidly due to fossil fuel extraction and burning- we cannot afford more of the same! Reassurance that the methanol will be used in plastic production rather than energy production is not credible. Once the plant was built, the managing corporation would act based on maximizing profit, regardless of their currently stated intentions.

Fracking has had calamitous effects on the regions of production. The practice has been damaging to the water and air, as well as associated with earthquakes. While the Department of Ecology focuses on effects in WA, the proposed project would contribute to further fracking efforts and significant environmental damage in those regions. A project built here that creates more damage there is still a terrible project.

We are living in a era of rapidly worsening climate instability. We have just lived through the worse air on record in the region due to unprecedented wildfires. Our forests are drier than they've ever been. We are seeing another catastrophic hurricane season. We are seeing fires in the Arctic, for God's sake! The polar regions are deteriorating more rapidly than scientists have predicted. We are in a crisis- we cannot afford to have more climate-destroying pollutants released into our air. Our air is a commodity owned by all of us. That cannot be further damaged to provide more profits to corporations.

We absolutely urgently need to be reducing use of fossil fuels like fracked gas and rapidly shifting to fully renewable production of energy. We also cannot afford further production of methane for plastic production. Every country, including the United States and China, must quickly reduce the extraction of these dangerous substances. Elegant but specious arguments about how this project with actually reduce GHGs are not tenable.

I live in Portland OR, 37 miles away. I care deeply about the health of our region. I will join many others in active opposition to construction of this plant if it were approved. I plead with you to uphold your obligation to protect the ecology of our region and to preserve some shred of a healthy environment for all of our children and grandchildren. You hold the power- do not let this monstrosity be approved.

Thank you for reading my comments. Please take them to heart and act appropriately.