

Cynthia Thornton-Tang

I would like to urge the panel to deny the permit for the refinery.

I am a mother and a grandmother and a lifelong resident of the Pacific Northwest. I am concerned that there will be pollution and environmentally harmful effects at every stage of this project: from extraction, to transport, to storage, to refining, to burning fossil fuel, to plastics which become micro-plastics and have been found everywhere, including in our food. I remind the panel that we are in an earthquake region, plus we have irreplaceable and vulnerable natural assets: our waterways, our air, our land.

This project, if approved, would give short-term financial benefit to Northwest Innovation Works and its investors, with the long-term costs passed on to citizens of this planet, a burden that would be borne most particularly by those who have the least. There will be leakage, there will be accidents, there will be clean up costs, there will be pollution either by methane gas or micro-plastics.

In our current year of trauma with COVID, economic upheaval, and heightened awareness of social and racial inequities, it is clear how morally wrong and economically short-sighted it is to approve fossil fuel projects that allow corporations and investors to reap the profit and walk away from the costs.

We need to make choices now that will give us all a better future.

I urge the panel to reject the permit request.

Thank you,
Cynthia Thornton-Tang