

# Emily Wagnitz

As a lifelong citizen of Washington State, a mother, and a Christian, I strongly oppose the proposed fracked gas to methanol plant in Kalama, WA.

In this summer of unprecedented wildfire damage on the West Coast, and storm damage on the East Coast, the immediate reality of the Climate Crisis could not be more obvious.

And yet, even as industry and government have finally, belatedly, begun to publicly admit to the reality of climate change and massive environmental degradation, they continue to function as if old environmental policies and economic paradigms still made sense. Significantly expanding fossil fuel and plastics production anywhere in 2020 is not just short-sighted. It is insane.

Scientific data overwhelmingly and urgently informs us that the global community must begin a massive, immediate shift away from fossil fuels and plastics if our children and future generations are to have any hope of environmental, political, and economic stability.

In my 40 years of living in Washington State - largely on the west side - I have never in my life experienced anything approaching the horrendous air-quality that my family and I have endured during three of the five past summers at my family's home in Ferndale. As a child growing up in the 1980's and 90's my summers were spent almost entirely outdoors, enjoying the clean air and natural beauty of Washington. Days and even weeks of enforced sequestration indoors due to late summer wildfire smoke are part of life for my five-year old son. He has come to believe that this is a normal part of summer. Science suggests it likely will become just that.

I understand that this project will likely create some jobs, and will make a few lucky rich people even richer. I imagine that the folks who stand to gain the most from this project will have the means to jet off every August and September to some spot where the air is cleaner than it will be here. But they will have an increasingly hard time finding hospitable climates in the future, as sea-levels rise and heat-waves, floods, and storms increase in intensity.

Middle class Americans like my family will have to shelter in place and endure, as the planet, the foundation of our economy, begins to crumble under the weight of what we have built on it.

God help the global poor, who are increasingly subject to flooding and drought, and who will be displaced in ever-increasing numbers, and looking for shelter in the first world.

If this project does not go through, I will be sorry for work and wealth lost. But we cannot continue to do business as usual. Business as usual is literally killing us.

There are no jobs on a dead planet.

I pray that those of you with the power to make the final decision on this project will examine your consciences, find your courage, and do what is right here. Thank you.