# Robin Miller

I'm deeply disappointed to see our own Department of Ecology undercut the Clean Energy Transformation Act and use a conversion to keep this plant running for two more decades — sidestepping the coal phase-out SB 5769 mandated.

This deal locks Washington into a fixed-price natural gas contract through Dec. 31, 2044 — one year before our legal deadline to eliminate fossil fuels statewide. Zero transition buffer. A state committed to clean energy is contractually binding itself to fossil fuel, crowding out the renewable investment we actually need. That's a misuse of our tax dollars.

And we'd be tying ourselves to a company that's given the public plenty of reasons for concern:

2018: Fined $331,000 — the largest penalty its regulator had ever issued — for exceeding federal mercury limits and failing to operate pollution controls.

2025: Ecology's own assessment found contamination — metals, fuels, solvents — in the plant's soil and sediment, from coal ash, leaked diesel, and smokestack emissions.

Right now: TransAlta is asking to shrink its $118M cleanup bond for the adjacent coal mine by $15.8M — while that mine is only half reclaimed. If TransAlta walks, taxpayers cover the gap.

On record since 2002: TransAlta's own SEC filing draws a legal line shifting liability for pre-acquisition contamination onto prior owners — a pattern of minimizing what it owes, not stepping up to pay it.

This is a company with a track record of deflecting cleanup costs, and we're proposing to extend our relationship with them for another 20 years — instead of moving forward.

Our tax dollars should build a clean energy future, not fund environmental risk and financial liability while moving backward.