

Melissa Carlson

I live in the Great Lakes Watershed, and have been involved in hearings on water policy. Open, transparent, international hearings that result in fair policy. This is the way that our government and regulatory agencies are set up in the democratic USA.

I deeply value water, it cannot be replaced once it is polluted. NEVER. Big Oil values immediate profit and has pushed strongly for power to protect their short term profit. I know they spend egregious amounts of money biasing policymakers at all levels to protect this power and profit. But as the absentee landlords they are, they will not be personally affected by the damage this LNG plant will deliver. They have pushed and persuaded the Administrative Staff to undertake secret backdoor deals. This denies the Freedom of Information Act and denies information to and input by the communities that will be affected. This is knowingly wrong.

Too much authority is vested in the Executive Director, without fair review. If the decisions being made were rightfully considered, there would be nothing to hide from the public and nothing to fear from being exposed. Permits are made to be enforceable, to be for a limited time, to be made with input from all affected. Giving the Executive Director sole power to change laws is a dictatorship, not a democracy. Please provide ability for fair, transparent decisionmaking, involving the public and the Commission, as this agency was created to do.