

Lauren Whybrew

From: jhawk@gglbbs.com
Sent: Saturday, January 13, 2024 10:54 PM
To: Lauren Whybrew
Subject: NO to wood pellet manufacturing in Hoquiam

(Please enter this letter into the formal public comment for this project)

To Olympic Regional Clean Air Agency and others this may concern:

The wood pellet manufacturing facility proposed by Pacific Northwest Renewable Energy (PNWRE)--itself a corporation named with unfortunate hypocrisy--**is a project we do NOT want.**

It will harm our community, our forests, and is a terrible idea in this climate crisis. I can appreciate that we need more job opportunities in our community, but we need jobs that do NOT come at the expense of our health--our bodies, forests, air, water, marine life.

I've been following the rapid incursion of wood pellet manufacturing in the west. Wood pellet companies have run roughshod over the SW United States, and now as they run out of areas to exploit, they've turned to the amazing and grand temperate rainforests of the Northwest.

Let's get one thing straight: there is nothing 'renewable' about wood pellets, and we know that their cumulative effect is worse than mining for coal. To put further pressure on our largely devastated mature and old growth forests would be unconscionable...it's hard enough to get logging to transform so that we can begin to build back our carbon-absorbing and air-cleaning forests, but to add wood pellet industry to this would be major head-in-the-sand.

Manufacturing wood pellets produces harmful pollutants like nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, hazardous air pollutants, and microscopic dust particles. PNWRE claims the facility will emit only 1.3 tons of HAPs per year, while stack tests and air permit applications of similar size and controls show it will emit at least 40 tons of Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs). The pollutants, which include formaldehyde, acrolein, and methanol, are toxic or can cause cancer, even in small amounts. In particular, they cause health problems for children, the elderly, and people with asthma or COPD.

This is poison!!

You realize they lie about these things, on the front end...right?

Significant greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution would be emitted at every step – from cutting forests, trucking cut trees long distances in hundreds of daily trips, chipping wood and producing pellets, and shipping pellets overseas to countries in Asia and Europe that currently incentivize woody biomass energy.

We do not want to be feeding a dirty and destructive biomass industry. All the hypocrisy around this being a 'clean', 'green', 'renewable' form of energy is hogwash. This is logging for wood pellets, which burn dirty, and dump massive amounts of carbon into the atmosphere.

These wood pellets would be manufactured to ship overseas to be burned in converted coal-fired power plants. This would create more ship traffic, dredging, water pollution, and harm to marine life. We're already decimating the seas, our sturgeon, our orcas, our whales and other marine life.

How about the noise?

The facility will run for 8,000 hours per year. This would mean an increase in heavy truck traffic and hammermill pounding nearly every day. Hammermills routinely operate at 100db levels and Hoquiam schools are less than one mile from the proposed facility.

This is unacceptable for our children and our community.

Please....

Wood pellet manufacturing decimates the locales it occupies.

There are better ways to provide jobs to our area.

Do NOT LET THIS FACILITY COME INTO OUR REGION!!

Thank you for acting on behalf of our community's BEST interests,

~JJ Lindsey

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