



May 22, 2019

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

On behalf of Green America's over 250,000 individual and 2,000 business members, we write to oppose the construction of a silicon smelter by the PacWest corporation in Newport, Washington. As an organization that works to create a truly green economy that works for people and the planet, we are deeply concerned that the smelter will harm local ecosystems, endanger the local population, and negatively impact the Kalispel and Kootenai Tribes.

The smelter raw materials include coal, and estimates of the amount of coal required have been variable and "sketchy". Estimates vary from 48 metric tons (approximately 53,000 US tons) of coal per year to 150,000 tons per year coal plus charcoal. The rare "blue gem" coal will need to be transported from either Kentucky, or Colombia, South America. In addition to the mining and transportation of the coal, the burning of this much coal to operate the smelter will produce alarming impacts.

The potential annual impacts of the smelter are disturbing including emissions of 320 tons Greenhouse Gases, 760 tons Sulfur Dioxide, 700 tons Nitrogen Oxides, 601 tons Carbon Monoxide, 111 tons Particulate Matter (including silicon dust), and other coal toxins (mercury, arsenic, polyaromatic hydrocarbons, etc.).

In addition to driving climate change, these emissions will negatively impact the health and well-being of local residents, including students at nearby schools. The inhalation of particulate matter and toxins has been shown to increase the incidence of lung and heart diseases in affected people, and can be even more significantly damaging to lungs of growing children.

These toxins will also pollute local waterways, negatively impacting the Little Spokane River headwaters and watershed, the Pend Oreille River, and the Newport area's water recharge zone. The health of these rivers and waterways is essential to local ecosystem health, and to the overall health of the local economy.