

My name is Mervin Packineau I am the council representative for the North East Segment for the Mandan Hidatsa and Arikara Nation and I am in support of the MHA Nation Clean Fuels Refinery and have been from the beginning. I will now give the reasons I am for the project.

Economic Development : The refinery project will bring 600-1,000 jobs during the 24 month construction phase. After this there will be 65 full time positions within the refinery complex. Each of these full time positions will have 3 to 4 support ancillary jobs for a total of over 200 full time jobs. These jobs will be a welcome addition to not only our Tribe but to the surrounding communities as well.

The profits from selling of the gasoline, diesel, jet fuel and propane that the refinery will produce would enable our Tribe to realize its true sovereignty and not be so dependent upon Federal money from the government. We would be able to address a lot of our problems such as; housing, energy assistance, education, health care and the many other issues that the Tribe has to deal with but cannot fully solve because a lack of funds. At this time everybody drives cars and pickups, no matter how high the price of gas is, we buy it. We also buy propane to heat our homes in the winter. There will be a market for our product. The profits from the refinery will enable the Tribe to serve its people and address the aforementioned issues.

Environmental Issues : I have heard not only the Parshall community but also others who are worried that the refinery will harm not only the environment but also the health of our children and our elders. We now have the opportunity to review the draft version of the environmental impact statement that was completed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Environmental Protection Agency. This study is very thorough and addresses the environmental concerns. Both of these Federal Agencies have co-authored the document and are now here to answer questions and take comments from the public.

Our refinery is called a Clean Fuels Refinery because it is state of the art and will utilize the most modern technology. We will be refining the Alberta Tar Sands, which have been refined once in Canada and the product we will be refining at our refinery will be synthetic crude oil. Our air emissions will be under the limits set by the EPA and I encourage the public to ask questions of our engineers who designed our refinery, Triad Engineers.

In closing I would like to encourage not only my community of Parshall/Lucky Mound but also the rest of the Tribal Communities and also the surrounding areas to become more informed. You now have the opportunity to ask not only the BIA and EPA questions, but also our contractors , which are Triad Engineers, our environmental firm who completed our groundwater study GeoTrans and our Project Manager. They will be more than willing to answer your questions and address your concerns. Thank you.