

I appreciate being able to comment at this hearing. I applaud *the* Paris accord commitment of 80-95% carbon pollution cuts by 2050. I cheer Governor Jay Inslee and the Seattle City Council's pledge to this commitment. As a former solar home designer and RE activist of the late 70s and early 80s I have confronted utility inertia in both Washington and Arizona. Believe me their dedication to their status quo has proven formidable. However, now is THE TIME to make draconian decisions if our carbon reduction commitment is to become anything more than atoms randomly spinning around in thin air. This is because 2050 is only 32 years away... about the time needed to broadly implement any major technological shift: in our case a near total shift from ancient solar energy to real time solar in all its forms.

There have been many tries in the past to make this shift and Washington. Both Washington citizens AND utilities have a history of doing the right thing and correcting the wrong things in the context of energy, the environment, environmental justice and indigenous cultures.

In the late 70s and early 80s both Washington Natural Gas, Seattle city Light, Puget Power and the Snohomish PUD provided significant support for an emerging solar water and home energy market and for conservation strategies. When national politics emphasized energy extraction, the efforts by utilities AND citizens waned. This was partly because fossil fuel prices dropped significantly but also because renewable energy was disincentivized by changes in public policy. When Ronald Reagan took office CO2 concentrations in the atmosphere were in the mid 330 ppm. Utilities and people who tried to the right thing on energy and environment were undermined by fossil fuel interests. **They were wrong and the people were right.**

However, in 1981 Washington citizens passed Initiative 394 "Shall public agencies obtain voter approval prior to issuing bonds for the construction or acquisition of major public energy projects?". Eventually this doomed the Washington Public Power Supply System partially constructed nuclear plants. **This time the people decided that they were right and the utilities were wrong.**

In the early 2000s the people decided that the utilities again were acting wrong environmentally. Then, the people of Washington passed I-937 the Energy Independence Act to reduce utility usage of fossil fuels. Despite utility resistance the people won and **emission reductions have proven Washington voters to have been right.**

In 2016, I 732 followed a very conservative political shift to defeat. It was a carbon tax initiative designed to cut emissions similar to a law in British Columbia whose economy has NOT COLLAPED. When voters were at the polls, CO2 emissions stood at 404ppm, about 70ppm higher than when Reagan took office. Utilities and fossil fuel interests vehemently opposed the bills. **But were the voters really wrong?** Apparently the verdict is still out as our current legislature struggles with two pieces of legislation to implement carbon pricing in Washington... something WAY OVERDUE.

To the point of this hearing, perhaps if PSE executives decide to go all out in honoring the Paris 2050 goals by encouraging conservation, developing renewable energy sources and ending its current emission track enabler, Colstrip, **in my opinion, utilities, alternative energy interests and the people will all have done the right thing.**

In conclusion, I end my statement by publicly expressing gratitude to the Elwa-Klallam and Lummi Tribes who by example have lead Washington by doing the right energy and environmental things. After a century, the Elwa River again runs free and a century after my family homesteaded there, Cherry Point is closed to big coal. We owe our gratitude to the courage and heroics of both tribes. Perhaps they understand energy and environmental issues in a deeper way than most utilities. **May PSE follow their lead and do the right thing for Washington and the earth.**

Thank you again for this hearing.

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