

Dear Utilities & Transportation Commission, Feb 21, 2018

I am Michael De Souza and I am testifying that Puget Sound Energy must transition to non-fossil fuel energy sources now, and immediately stop construction of new fossil fuel projects, and end our reliance on fossil fuel plants.

I work as a nurse in a large Tacoma hospital. I see people who lack adequate housing being hospitalized every winter, year after year, because cold & drafty homes make their chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and/or asthma worsen. This ~~causes~~^{causes} extreme & human suffering, as well as strains our health care and emergency response systems, and costs our economy greatly, in missed work days and school days. I testify that HOME HEATING IS A PUBLIC UTILITY AND SHOULD BE AFFORDABLE TO AVERAGE PEOPLE IN TACOMA. PSE has no right to make enormous profits off the suffering of vulnerable people.

I have graduate degrees in community health nursing and public health with focus on environmental health. I have published research in peer-reviewed journals on the impacts that fossil fuel use has on human health. I have worked with communities located near the Port of Seattle and Port of Tacoma to measure the air quality in their neighborhoods and consider air quality's impact on their health. Again, we found poor air quality, which ~~was created largely~~^{is caused largely} is caused largely by fossil fuel use in and around the ports, caused these residents more exacerbations of respiratory disease, and decreased their quality of life. As such, I testify that PEOPLE LIVING-AROUND PORTS DESERVE CLEAN AIR, JUST AS DOES EVERYONE ELSE, AND PSE PROJECTS THAT THREATEN THE HEALTH OF NEIGHBORS MUST BE STOPPED UNTIL RISKS CAN BE PROPERLY EVALUATED AND MITIGATED. PSE's profits and a lazy attitude of "status quo" do not justify threatening the public's health.

You as the utilities commission have a right to regulate the companies to which you grant monopolies.

so that these companies do not abuse their monopolies nor abuse their customers. You may not be excited about calling out PSE's abuse, but it is your job.

I especially call attention to the liquified natural gas plant that PSE is building in the Port of Tacoma on/near historic Puyallup Tribe lands without permits - this is not legal action and therefore clearly shows neglect & abuse on PSE's part. I testify that PSE MUST STOP CONSTRUCTION OF THEIR LNG PLANT IN THE PORT OF TACOMA.

The assertion that this plant is to benefit local residents is false - the LNG will be used for marine bunkering on the rate payers dime and at the local residents health risks.

It is your job to stop PSE from ~~be~~ harming our health. The climate crisis is happening and you have the duty to address PSE's fossil fuel responsibility. We customers rely on you for protection, and will count on you, & hold you accountable for your actions. Thank you for your dedication to the public good.

Sincerely,

Rachael De Souza
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