From: WardCarson
To: UTC DL Records Center
Subject: WUTC Docket UE-160918 and UG-160919
Date: Monday, January 15, 2018 10:40:44 PM

Steven V. King, Executive Director and Secretary

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

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Dockets UE-160918 and UG-160919

Dear Commissioners Danner, Rendahl and Balasbas,

As I'm sure you're aware, a majority of citizens in Washington are concern about climate change and it's relationship with the carbon-based air pollutants that result from burning fossil fuels. A large percentage of those pollutants are produced by the 3 for-profit utilities that your commission is charged with regulating. We are depending upon you, as advocates for the well-being of Washington's citizens, to address this major problem.

Puget Sound Energy, held by Puget Sound Holding, owned by Australian and Canadian investment and management funds, provides electric power to the grid that serves Vashon island. I am a PSE customer—in that, if I want electricity, I have no choice; PSE operates as a monopoly in that capacity. The WUTC, however, has the authority to regulate PSE's financial decisions while also safeguarding ratepayers from any harm resulting from their operation.

I have has occasion to read the Fuel Mix Disclosure reports provided by Washington's Department of Commerce (http://www.commerce.wa.gov/growing-the-economy/energy/). The most recent (covering 2016) exposes the 3 for-profit utilities (of the 65 electric utilities in our state) as supplying to our state's grid 81.11% of the electricity that is derived from the burning of fossil fuels. Clearly, that small minority of utilities, which you have the authority to regulate, is not addressing the carbon-based air pollution threat that is concerning Washington's citizens.

I have had occasion also to read that our WUTC, under the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 480-100-238 (2) (b), is empowered to, "consider resource cost, market-volatility risks, demand-side resource uncertainties, resource dispatchability, resource effect on system operation, the risks imposed on ratepayers, **public policies regarding resource preference adopted by Washington state or the federal government and the cost of risks associated with environmental effects including emissions of carbon dioxide."**

My attention is drawn to the Code's concern for the "...environmental effects including the emissions of carbon dioxide". The vast majority of those Washington electric utilities that are controlled directly by co-ops, municipalities or PUDs do obviously concern themselves with such air pollutants—they provide our grid with electric power that is over 90% carbon free. In stark contrast, less than 50% of PSE's contribution is carbon free. PSE, thereby just as obviously, considers the air pollution caused by their burning of fossil fuels to be a cost that is external to their business model. Clearly, as the data shows, PSE does not share the concern exhibited by the other utilities in our state!

Something is amiss here. The vast majority of our non-profit utilities listen to their customers and respond appropriately. In contrast, your Commission which regulates the for-profit utilities, allows them to provide electric power, an excessive amount of which is tainted by burning fossil fuels. This may be the profit-motivated choice of their foreign owners; it's not a safe choice for the general well-being of our state's citizens.

The citizens of this state want electricity that is free from the pollutants of burning carbon. Isn't it time that our WUTC directs PSE to recognize this harmful social cost and to internalize the related costs into their business model? I believe so and respectfully request that you direct PSE to alter their Intergrated Rate Plan (IRP) to include **the cost of risks associated with environmental effects including emissions of carbon dioxide."**

Sincerely,

Ward Carson, a PSE ratepayer

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