

PSE Rate Case Hearing July 31, 2017 Bellevue, WA

Witness/Speaker: Stephanie Barbee, LICSW

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206 275 2250

Re: Docket numbers: UE-170033 and UG-170034

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STATE OF WASH.  
UTIL. AND TRANSP.  
COMMISSION

Good evening.

My name is Stephanie Barbee. I'm a clinical social worker affiliated with Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility. I have 20 years of experience witnessing people cope with the effects of trauma and loss, many of them immigrants and refugees.

Since time is short, let me share just a couple true stories and ask you to connect the dots between trauma, climate change and local energy policy.

Imagine:

-You live on the Atlantic Coast Nicaragua: where Hurricane Joan has just ripped away the roof of your home. You gather your children and elderly parents into a corner as rain, wind and howling dark pour in. You pray your family survives the night.

-You live in Seattle, homeless: with severe and persistent mental illness, many years after being made to fight as a child in an African war

-You live in Chelan County, 2 years ago: where a drought has prepared the path for a wildfire to roar down the valley. You and the fire department are powerless to save your home, your barn, and many of your animals.

There is a strong scientific consensus that humanity will experience more hurricanes, more droughts, more fire and food scarcity, more war as a result of climate change. In fact, the Pentagon declared in 2014 that "climate change is a threat multiplier". This means there is more suffering in the pipeline. Unless we choose to prevent it. This will require empathy and courage.

Dear PSE representatives and Utility Commissioners: as a rate payer, I urge you to help us pivot away from coal and fracked gas, two undisputed drivers of climate change, and to immediately build capacity for clean, renewable energy.

Thank you.

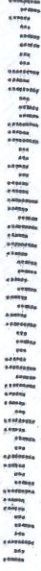
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Washington State Utilities &  
Transportation Commission  
PO Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: Docket # WSP33 1708334-7250



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Dear PSE representative  
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Thank you.