

Statement to Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission Dockets UE-170033 & UG-170034

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My name is Tom Crawford, board member of Thurston Climate Action Team, and with People for a Carbon-Free Olympia.

I have lived in Thurston County for nearly 30 years, I own a home, and still I consider myself a tenant. The Nisqually, Squaxin and Chehalis people have graciously allowed me to reside in and enjoy the land, rivers, lakes and Salish Sea that has been their home for millennia. They are my landlord. Their home is now at great risk because of climate change. We created this problem; we need to fix it.

As the Commission considers Puget Sound Energy's rate proposal, I ask you to encourage PSE to rapidly replace its coal-fired power plants with renewable, clean energy. In 2013 Thurston Regional Planning Council completed a county-wide sustainability plan that calls for drastic reductions in carbon pollution. The City of Olympia recently re-committed to these targets, and will be completing a detailed climate action plan in 2018. Based on the carbon wedge analysis work recently completed for the City, de-carbonizing the electric grid that serves Olympia is likely to be a major contributor to its ability to achieve its community-wide target for reducing the carbon pollution that is causing our current global warming crisis. Similar analysis is now underway county-wide, sponsored by the Thurston Regional Planning Council. So rapidly replacing PSE's coal-fired power plants with renewable energy sources will help our South Sound communities achieve their community-wide carbon reduction goals.

Therefore, as an important step in that direction, I ask that you shorten the payment schedule for Units 3 and 4 at Colstrip to 2025.

Thank you for your consideration of public comments during this hearing.