

June 28, 2017

Dear Puget Sound Energy CEO Kimberly Harris:

I am 15 years old and will be living on this small world for many more years. I have been using your utility all my life and appreciate the service you provide my family and I.

However, I am scared. I still have a while living on this earth, which means in my years to come, I will have to breath air that will irritate my lungs. I will have to move inland due to the Puget Sound rising and covering the banks of my dear, bustling city of Seattle. I will have to pay much higher rates because of the dramatic price swings of natural gas and the rising carbon costs. I will not be able to eat my favorite hometown, juicy, oyster dinner because their populations are steadily decreasing.

And why? It's because of me. My family is buying their electricity from a utility that releases so much CO₂ in my neighbours backyard, that the lakes and wind are becoming devastated.

Even though I am young, you might think I am ignorant on the topic. I understand that the costs are cheaper right now to continue the Colstrip power plant in Montana! I understand it's costly to switch to wind power. But, I also know that there is enough wind in Washington state to provide energy to the entire world, 40 times over! forever! And I understand that the Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Council has called on utilities to invest in up to 4500 MW of conservation in 20 years! These efforts are my future and don't worry, I have looked into my future as much as possible.

What I am trying to say with this letter, is that

renewable energy is the future and it's my future.
Renewable energy allows me to breathe cleaner air.
Renewable energy is cheaper in the long run because
you make it once and you'll get energy forever. Renewable
energy doesn't stop me from eating my delicious steelfish
for dinner!

Coal is the past. Why would we renew coal powerplants
and gas fracking when we have these nice, long-run
cheap, and technologies of the future?

I appreciate that you've shut down two of the dirtiest
boilers at the Colstrip power plant. Your efforts have
probably saved many lives. I am mailing you to
urge you to retire the two remaining units no later
than 2050 because coal is the past and my life
depends on cleaner energy. Let's go to 100%
renewable! PSE would become a long lasting, sustainable
utility that cares about the health of their customers.

Sincerely,
Daniela Shuman