

To the members of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission:

My name is Andy James. I founded the Vashon Climate Action Group, which works on positive actions to combat climate change. We collected nearly 1,200 signatures on this case, UG-170033/170034, urging the UTC to insist that Puget Sound Energy close its coal-fired plants and turn towards renewable energy. We on Vashon Island are ready, as citizens and as ratepayers, for this transformation to happen now.

Ratepayers pay for the expansion of PSE's capacity. We believe it places an unreasonable burden on us, the ratepayers, to subsidize expansions that worsen climate change and pollute our region. It amounts to asking ratepayers to pay against their own self-interest. It also commits our power provider to a mode of power production that is rapidly growing outmoded as renewable power grows cheaper and more feasible. This is certainly true of coal, but also of any other fossil fuel. We can do better and it is in our interest as ratepayers to see it done.

We believe our region has the resources, the convictions, and the innovative spirit to lead the nation and the world towards a much better future. We have corridors of strong, steady wind; expanses of land for future solar and hydro power, and the Pacific ocean for turbines. This is the kind of abundance that drives great, forward-thinking economies and healthy futures.

Again, as ratepayers with PSE we are mindful of what we are funding. It is in our interest, and in the interest of our future, to start paying towards a sustainable and healthy model of power generation. We ask that the UTC echo our insistence in not paying for coal-powered plants.

Andy James  
andyjames@centurytel.net