

**From:** [Mike Van Dyke](#)  
**To:** [UTC DL Records Center](#)  
**Subject:** AVISTA UE-161036  
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docket number of this proceeding (UE-161036)

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to encourage Avista to invest in renewable energy and abandon fossil fuels. As a pediatrician I care for the next generation of Washingtonians. Our children offer us many compelling reasons to commit totally to renewable energy. First, pollution associated with burning fossil fuels can cause life threatening illness for children with health conditions such as asthma. Second, climate change is happening faster because of human's burning fossil fuels and the emission of greenhouse gases. With climate change has come more drastic weather. We have seen drought leading to record breaking forest fire seasons recently. The air quality was unsafe many of the days in August this year due to fires, again threatening children and adults who have health conditions. I personally took care of many children adversely affected by the poor air quality. The hurricanes we've seen this season may not have affected our region directly but were devastating to our neighbors to the southeast. Rising sea levels and diseases spreading with rising temperatures are other excellent reasons to stop relying on fossil fuels for energy.

As I see it, we have an opportunity in Washington and in the U.S. We can become leaders in renewable energy and show the way for the rest of the country and the world or we can cling to old technologies and methods that are literally hurting us and our children.

Sincerely,

Michael Van Dyke DO

Pediatric Intensivist