



Dear Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission,

Crystal Mountain urges you to consider the climate costs and risks associated with your decision in Docket UE-190529 and to protect ratepayers by rejecting rate increases associated with new fossil fuel investments. Crystal Mountain creates over 600 jobs directly, and draws more than 500,000 guest visits each year, bringing an economic boon to our gateway communities of Enumclaw and Greenwater. Climate change is expensive for Crystal and the communities our business supports. As a PSE customer and the largest ski area in Washington, Crystal cannot afford to support continued investment in the fossil fuels that are melting away our future prosperity.

Eliminating fossil fuel use to minimize global warming is a top priority for Crystal. While we are working to reduce the carbon pollution we can control, electricity is one of our largest sources of emissions. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this docket to object to the idea of requiring ratepayers to financially support utility provider investments that are in conflict with the best interests of the ratepayer in that they only deepen our dependence on fossil fuel use and prevent our region from achieving these necessary greenhouse gas reductions.

The science of global warming and the importance of eliminating fossil fuel use is clear. Claims that natural gas helps decarbonization efforts fail to consider the lifetime greenhouse gas pollution from methane production, transport, and use, which rivals that of coal. We ask that the UTC protect ratepayers from bearing the burden of risky fossil fuel projects that ratepayers and lawmakers already see as dangerous and obsolete. Fossil fuel projects present an objective risk because the climate damage they do will hurt ratepayers economically, and the legislated costs of fossil fuel use will likely increase dramatically within the lifetime of new infrastructure. These investments are also a greater relative risk for ratepayers compared to clean energy investments because clean energy is increasingly cost competitive with fossil fuels, environmentally necessary, and politically safer.

The construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure, including the Tacoma LNG facility, is especially concerning to Crystal. Once built, this infrastructure will remain operational for decades, locking in emissions and providing financial incentives to cling to fossil fuels. Crystal recognizes that it will cost money to transition to clean energy and we are generally supportive of investments in new clean generation and transmission capacity. With renewable energy increasingly cost competitive with dirty electricity, and with the obvious danger of continued fossil fuel pollution, we expect our utility to invest in clean energy instead of fracked gas generated electricity for all ratepayers. We look forward to the day we can proudly celebrate our carbon free utility company. Ultimately, we know that a clean grid will save Crystal and help us thrive. Thank you for considering the needs of ratepayers.

Sincerely,

Frank DeBerry  
President and COO  
Crystal Mountain