

I'm Alex Epstein, an energy organizer a Senior Organizer with Fuse Washington representing our 100,000 members statewide.

I'd like to say first of all, that I've seen, on the ground, first hand, that a movement is building.

100 local businesses, 14 state legislators, mayors, municipalities, local officials, and more than 11000 individuals have all come to say, PSE needs to understand the true cost of coal.

I'd like to tell you all specifically about some amazing work that's been done over the last 4 months with local businesses. Fuse organizers and activists joined with Sierra Club activists and together, we've collected over 100 local business leaders, all paying dues to PSE, who say it is time to move beyond coal. IT can be difficult for a business owner to stick their neck out on the line, so this is obviously something that they care deeply about.

Businesses across the state pay hard-earned money to PSE every year and little do they know, their money is going to pay for majority ownership of the dirtiest coal plant in the west. It doesn't reflect the values of our state

After our members had conversations with some local business leaders, we found that many, if not most of them, had no idea just how much of their energy came from Coal. Washington businesses' often depend on the clean, environmentally friendly image that reflects their customers' interests, and PSE is putting that at risk. In a world where we buy green, and support sustainable business, this could put Washington business at a competitive disadvantage.

These businesses signed on to this letter because they know that ultimately, coal is bad for their image, it is bad for business, and they are committed to being leaders in the clean energy movement.

From pizza shops to neighborhood grocers, Washington businesses are asking PSE to include the true cost of coal in their IRP and help Washington State move beyond coal.

But businesses aren't the only ones concerned. There were more than 11,000 individual comments, 14 state legislators, plus the city of Redmond, Issaquah, Kirkland, Snoqualmie, all of King County and some of the most influential non-profits in our region that have all come together to tell PSE and the Utilities and Transportation committee, "coal is dirty, and bad for our communities, it's time to move forward."

I've rarely seen a group as passionate and motivated as the coalition that has come together around this issue. From ice cream shops to Law firms, mayors, county executives, State Senators and high school students, everyone who we speak for today understands that clean energy is Washington's Future. If we want to help Washington move into a new energy economy, it's businesses, leaders, and activists like these that will help us get there.

I speak for 11,000 commenters, more than 100 businesses, and 100,000 Fuse members when I ask PSE to include the real cost of coal in their Integrated resource plan, and to remember that this movement is building and growing, and now we need your help.