

From: [Freudenberger"s](#)
To: [PDS Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Planning commission town hall Sept. 12th
Date: Friday, September 13, 2019 9:39:08 PM

Commissioners,

I arrived at 5:30 for the Planning Commission Town Hall and found the rotunda packed with a friendly crowd wearing orange shirts and most of them with Union badges or hats. There was of course a large contingency from Phillips 66 and BP. By the time I got into the actual Council Chambers all the seats were gone and there were at least 10 sheet filled with names for testifying.

I have attended every Council meeting for the last few years when discussion centered around the extension of the moratorium while the Council worked on updating the Comprehensive Plan. A majority of the testimony was a plea for the Council to make bold moves to save our herring, fisheries, our whales and the Salish Sea from the ravages of climate change caused by the burning of fossil fuels. The Council listened and passed on to you a fairly strong set of amendments. During those public hearings, of course there were representatives from the refineries—their main message being “save our jobs—we are careful stewards and we cannot survive regulations that might hurt us economically” .I can honestly say they were out numbered by 3-1 at the very least. I think we all got tired of making our arguments over and over as the Council deliberated and got legal advice.

Now the tables were turned and the vast majority spoke against the Council’s work. This of course is their right and I am not without sympathy for their point of view. Of course they want to keep good paying jobs. My main point in writing you is to say if not now when? When are we going to stand firmly on the side of the planet? When are we going to try and save future generations.? My quarrel is not with working men and women. My quarrel is with the upper management of the oil companies who have known for 30 years that fossil fuels are decimating our earth—for thirty years they have chosen huge short term profits over the health of our planet and the lives of future generations.

So I am asking you to not be swayed by last night’s audience. We must begin now to standing down this deadly force. We should do everything in our power to retrain and help the workers but these amendments must be the first step in freeing ourselves from our assured destruction.

As an addendum...when someone testified that if we allowed the refineries to ship unrefined fossil fuels to Asia, the good refinery jobs would follow, the gentleman from BP sitting next to her husband said to his friend—”She has a point there..”

Thank you for your deliberations.,

Jayne Freudenberger Bellingham WA 98229

