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From: Clark County <webmaster@clark.wa.gov>
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Clark County

Submitted on Sat, 11/18/2023 - 6:53 PM

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Subject

Climate Change and Resiliency Element Public Participation Plan

Date of Hearing

Tue, 11/28/2023

Comment

From Don Steinke

To the Clark County Council and staff

More response from me regarding the comments received on your Public Participation Plan for the Climate Amendment to the GMA

Comment 10, made by the gas industry: NW natural should have executive membership on the Community Advisory Committee

Steinke's response: No, NW Natural should NOT be invited to be on any of the advisory committees. It would be like having an arsonist running the fire department.

Although the oil industry is the world's most powerful industry, the gas industry is the most deceptive.

When the city of Austin Texas drafted a plan to shift away from fossil fuels, the local gas company was fast on the scene to try to scale back the ambition of the effort.

They led a letter writing campaign urging Austin City officials to revise the plan asking that the word electrification be changed to decarbonization and the expression electric vehicles be changed to alternative fueled vehicles. They also asked that offsets be allowed and that fossil gas use be allowed beyond 2040.

Those substitutions are not acceptable.

Decarbonization of the gas supply might provide a 1% improvement, whereas heat pumps would provide a 99% improvement.

Alternative fueled vehicles could run on compressed gas with very variable benefit. EVs provide a 99% improvement. Carbon offsets are difficult to monitor and often fraudulent.

All of those changes would cause increases in the price of heating and cooling and lead to public opposition to those plans.

The American Gas Association said it “will absolutely oppose any effort to ban natural gas or sideline our infrastructure anywhere the effort materializes, state house or city steps”.

No groups that represent fossil fuel interests should be invited to be on any of the committees. That probably means the Chamber of Commerce, Identity Clark County, CREDC, Affordable Fuels Washington and Let’s Go Washington.

In Vancouver, NW Natural conducted a campaign urging their customers to protest Vancouver’s Climate Action Framework.