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From: Clark County <webmaster@clark.wa.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 8:19 AM
To: publiccomment
Subject: Council Hearing Public Comment

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Clark County

Submitted on Mon, 11/27/2023 - 8:18 AM

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Subject

County Council Hearing on Climate Change and Resiliency Public Participation Plan

Date of Hearing

Tue, 11/28/2023

Comment

Hello County Councilors,

I would like to start by reiterating that while the councilor representing my district told me recently that “there is no new leaf to turn over” regarding public trust, JLA Public Involvement’s survey results have indicated that “the public and stakeholders lack trust with the county and don’t see it as transparent in its processes and projects...”

Indeed, as two sitting councilors have signed off on plans for a concrete batch plant near a residential area in recent history and continue to push for the destruction of our community for the benefit of a private rock mining company and rogue rail operator via our publicly-owned railroad, there is a lot of progress to be made in the area of public trust and ensuring that our councilors work for us. For a councilor to tell me, a constituent who is a working mother merely concerned about my government taking scientific consensus on the climate crisis seriously and following state law (which this council has shown recently it is willing to flout), that public trust is not an issue despite your own hired surveyors reporting otherwise, is abhorrent and shows how little some councilors care about their constituency.

It is no secret that the public feels that moneyed interests run the show in this town, and so this council should start regaining public trust and achieving a real emissions reductions and resiliency plan by ensuring that NO representative of the fossil fuel industry sits on this Community Advisory Group.

NW Natural's product is methane, which is the most potent greenhouse gas in the short term. Their very existence depends on increasing emissions, which is why they heavily greenwash to the public. Additionally, commercial builders who for years have fought improvements to energy codes such as the Southwest Washington Contractor's Association and the Clark County Association of Realtors should not sit on the Community Advisory Group because they represent a private interest that is antithetical to the public interest of protecting carbon sequestering forest and agricultural lands, reducing consumption, and reducing emissions.

Anyone who cares about our children and the dire future they will suffer if we do not act boldly should take these recommendations seriously. Stop the denial. End the era of foxes guarding the hen house in county government. Thank you.

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