

From: [Jim Byrne](#)
To: [Rebecca Messinger](#)
Subject: Climate Testimony
Date: Monday, November 27, 2023 4:01:21 PM
Attachments: [Climate Public Participation Testimony2.odt](#)
[.~lock.Climate Public Participation Testimony2.doc#](#)

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Rebecca,

Please put it into the record for tomorrow's Climate participation meeting. Thanks so much. I saved as .odt and.doc formats. Use whatever works best for you, or copy message text. Jim

Karen Bowerman
Gary Medvigy
Sue Marshall
Glen Young
Michelle Belcott

Councilors,

Last week (11/24), the New York Times wrote, “There’s no shortage of reasons to be alarmed by climate change these days. This year is almost certain to be the hottest in recorded history. Extreme weather is wreaking havoc around the globe. Fossil fuel production and emissions are still rising, and world leaders are not moving fast enough”. Are you, Clark County councilors, moving fast enough?

This hearing is about public participation. Scheduling this session after: 16 consent requests; 7 business requests; and two public hearings on Precinct Additions and Precinct Boundaries; and Transportation Improvements, prior to the most awaited testimony of the day - Climate Change and Resiliency Public Participation Plan doesn't encourage, but rather stifles participation. Each public hearing is so important that they should have individual day's hearings. A citizen who wishes to testify must sit through an interminable number of requests and hearings prior to giving only 3 minutes testimony. One could wait 4.5 hours for 3 minutes of testimony. This is not a good trade. Have the Climate hearing first, or set a specific and hard time for it to commence. Don't make the public wait for routine business.

The Growth Management Act was amended this year to require Clark County to develop a plan to reduce emissions, develop a plan to reduce vehicle miles traveled and develop a plan for resilience to the climate impacts we expect to come, such as heat domes, droughts and forest fires. The public must be heard loud and clear. I understand that the PUD, NW natural, and trade unions have roles to play, but I do not want to see the deck stacked with exploitative interests. Fossil fuel representatives should not be on the Advisory Group. They have a long history of green-washing their projects. Home-builders and Realtors should not be at the table. They have no interest in reducing emissions.

A large portion of our emissions are due to travel. Forcing people to own cars drives up the cost of living, shopping and commuting. Road building is one of the highest costs in government. Have staff design efficient neighborhoods – not the Suburban sprawl they keep providing us.

It’s cheaper in the long run to make buildings energy efficient during construction. For 50 years, the

builders have resisted improvements to the energy codes. People end up paying more on their gas and electric bills for the life of the buildings they own. This is anachronistic thinking. Use every efficiency now.

Washington has a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions at least 45% statewide by 2030, to be in keeping with the science, we should aspire to that goal as well. The goal comes with carrots and sticks, which are intended to make clean energy cheaper than the alternative. Let's use them wisely. The first step in reducing emissions is to stop increasing them. This is your personal opportunity to do so. Let's act!