

To: Seattle Port Commission

Re: Decision to sign lease with Shell Oil Company to allow storage of Arctic Drilling equipment

My name is Annette Klapstein and I have been a resident of the Seattle area my entire adult life. That is a long time, because I am an old woman. And today I feel like a very tired and cranky old woman. I am tired of having to come to my elected officials, who supposedly represent and work for me and my neighbors, and beg and plead and demand that you do what you know you are supposed to do. When I look at the Port of Seattle's website, the first thing I see is the words "Where a sustainable world is headed." And a little further down the page it says this tagline is "to communicate our goal to be a national leader in sustainable port operations." Really?! There is nothing remotely sustainable about drilling for oil in the Arctic. A study published in the January 8 edition of the Journal Nature concluded that ALL Arctic oil and gas must remain in the ground if we are to have even a 50% chance of keeping the global temperature rise under the 2 C limit, which according to climate scientists may or may not be safe – but it's a sure bet that anything above that will be catastrophic.

I am tired and cranky because I see my elected Port officials blatantly violating your own stated values. Again, on your webpage you state that your values include: "We conduct business with the highest ethical standards." How does that comport with the sort of sleazy, backroom, non-transparent, no public input process that resulted in a lease ^{WHICH DIRECTLY BENEFITS} with one of the most criminally irresponsible companies on earth: Shell Oil? Not only did you fail to allow public input and debate before making this outrageous decision, but apparently you even failed to consult with the City of Seattle – yesterday the Mayor and City Council unanimously asked for the Department of Planning and Development to investigate your decision on this issue.

Another value the Port claims to have is this: "We are responsible stewards of community resources and the environment." Now I believe that you are all reasonably intelligent human beings, so you know that anthropogenic climate disruption is already well underway and causing serious problems. Your action enabling a climate criminal like Shell to drill in the Arctic guarantees that there will be ecological disasters, and if that oil is burned, our children and grandchildren will have either a horrific future or no future at all. A decision which guarantees the destruction of our children's future cannot, by any stretch of the imagination, claim to be "responsible stewardship."

A few months ago, the Seattle Raging Grannies, a group I am proud to be a member of, shut down the State Department of Ecology for a workshop on "How to Say No to Big Oil." Apparently, the Port of Seattle is also desperately in need of that workshop, and we would be more than happy to provide it. As your first assignment, you can start by cancelling the lease with Shell.

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