

## Open Letter To The Seattle Port Commission

March 10, 2015

Port of Seattle Commissioners  
PO Box 1209  
Seattle, WA 98111

Commissioners Albro, Bowman, Bryant, Creighton and Gregoire:

Your recent decision to authorize Port CEO Ted Fick to sign a lease with Foss Maritime, inviting Shell Oil to base its Arctic drilling fleet at the Port of Seattle, was a reckless mistake. The decision blatantly contradicts the Port's professed "commitment to environmental leadership" and demonstrates flagrant disregard of public opinion.

This decision amounts to more than tacit approval of Arctic drilling. It constitutes direct and crucial participation in one of the most environmentally destructive endeavors on earth. In addition to jeopardizing the region's endangered wildlife, Arctic drilling would spell imminent disaster for our planet's climate, as is clearly demonstrated by the latest in climate science.

Shell, the same company that ran aground twice during a botched attempt to drill in 2012, is virtually the only company still willing to undertake such a treacherous and costly venture. Contrary to what has been claimed, Shell's options are limited and a deal with the Port of Seattle could make or break their endeavor by making it both cheaper and easier to drill in the Arctic.

While such recklessness is routine for Shell, it is unacceptable for an elected body such as the Port commission, which must answer to the people of Seattle. Instead of consulting the public before making such a momentous decision on behalf of the people of Seattle, the commission has shut the door in the public's face, ignoring thousands of concerned emails. This must stop.

If you believe that by delegating this decision to CEO Fick, you have divested yourselves of responsibility, you are mistaken. Your responsibility as commissioners is well understood by the public, and this back-room deal has not gone unnoticed.

The burden of proof is on you to demonstrate your professed "commitment to environmental leadership". By waiting to act, you are only digging yourselves in deeper. You must either take the side of the planet and it's people, or that of their destruction. It is up to you whether you will be known as the commissioners who stayed true to their enthusiastically "green" campaign promises, or the commissioners who sold the planet to Shell Oil.

It is not too late to do the right thing. The solution is clear: **the commission must repeal its decision and rescind the lease with Foss.**

We expect this to be done soon, within no more than two weeks from today. Otherwise your position will be clear and we will take further public action.

All eyes are on you.

Sincerely,

Coalition for Port Accountability

Endorsed by:

Seattle Solidarity Network

350 Seattle Hub

Rising Tide Seattle

Plant for The Planet US

Bill McKibben  
Author, educator & environmentalist

Dahr Jamail  
Investigative journalist & author

John Deans  
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