

My name is Alex Epstein; I work as the field manager for Climate Solutions in Seattle.

I grew up on a ranch in Colorado and watched my Dad fight oil companies to keep their rigs off of our land. One day an oilman came onto our land and began to inspect our ranch. After my dad confronted the man, he learned that they were trying to put an oil derrick on our land, without his permission. My Father fought the company and eventually won, keeping their oilrigs off his land for good. Now, 15 years later, our land is surrounded by open space and the property value is worth immensely more than any of the nearby property that was compromised developed by the oil companies.

I bring this up because right now, Seattle has an oilman on our land, threatening our futures, and looking for personal profit, but we also have a choice.

We can stand up to Shell oil, and tell them that Seattle does not make impulsive, short sighted, irresponsible decisions that will not only effect our city's property value, but our family's health.

Commissioners, you have a choice. Choose to side with the people who elected you, not the companies that hope to exploit your power.

Thank you,
Alex