

From: [Kara Sweidel](#)
To: [Commission-Public-Records](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Allowing the return of cruise ships
Date: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 7:36:30 AM

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Dear Port of Seattle Commissioners,

I am dismayed to hear that you will be allowing the return of cruise ships to our Seattle ports as soon as July 24.

This is an act that is utterly incompatible with any idea to curb emissions that are the lead drivers of climate change. It is therefore incompatible with the Port's stated goals of emission reduction.

Additionally, as cruise ships fly "flags of convenience", they are not required to follow the laws and emissions requirements of this country. This is specifically done by the industry to avoid following climate regulations and proper management practices. We should not allow that to fly (pun intended!) in our ports.

And I don't know how you think it is safe to bring hoardes of tourists into the city when we have not yet beat COVID. The CDC may have made some poor choices relating to masking rules, but the virus itself dictates what is happening. We do not yet know enough about variants and vaccine longevity (especially in the face of variants) to be making decisions that would allow an influx of people into our community. Dr. Jeff Duchin has wisely determined that King County should continue masking. How will we possibly convey that to incoming tourists from places with looser restrictions? You have a responsibility to the people of Seattle, not to multinational corporations like Carnival and Holland America.

I am deeply disappointed in the choices you are making as a commission to allow cruise ships to return. Please reconsider this so that your constituents, and all around the globe, will one day have the hope of clean water and air.

Sincerely,
Kara Sweidel (they/them)
Unceded Duwamish territory (City of Seattle) resident
Future RN