

**From:** [Jim Bernthal](#)  
**To:** [Commission-Public-Records](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] My written comment on resuming cruise ship operations at the Port of Seattle  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 9:11:02 AM

---

**WARNING:** External email. Links or attachments may be unsafe.

Dear Port of Seattle Commissioners:

I am writing this as my contribution to public comments during your Port Commission meeting today, May 25, 2021. I would make this comment during the virtual meeting, but I am unable to be there at your 12pm meeting time, so I want my comment to be part of the record, and for you to give it your serious consideration.

My comment comes after hearing that you are considering reopening cruise line operations in our Port of Seattle within 2 months. I strongly oppose that decision, for a number of reasons. I will mention several of them here:

- Cruise ships are worsening the climate crisis we are in, because they emit large quantities of greenhouse gases. They also create many kinds of harmful pollution: noise pollution impacting our orca and whale populations, toxic emissions of carcinogens, and particulate matter that impacts human health or even cause early death.
- During Seattle's 6-month cruise season, over half a million people fly here to go on cruises. The airplane flights plus the cruise ships emit between 1.6 and 2.1 million tons of greenhouse gasses, about a third as much as is emitted by the entire city of Seattle in a whole year!
- 
- The Port of Seattle claims to want to be "the greenest port in North America", yet it continues to pursue building an additional cruise ship terminal. We should be moving in the opposite direction. And the Port wants to expand the airport, and expand/deepen our harbor to accommodate the world's biggest cargo ships. The Port frequently brings up shore power in response to the argument that we shouldn't be expanding fossil fuel intensive industry while the climate crisis continues, with scientists giving us less than 10 years to kick our fossil fuel addiction. Shore power only reduces the total greenhouse gas impact from a roundtrip voyage by less than 1%!
- 
- Lastly the global pandemic continues. Even if all on board are vaccinated, the communities where cruise ships dock may not be adequately vaccinated. Particulate matter, like that emitted by ship smokestacks, was found to spread the virus. Communities near air pollution sources were found to be hit harder; their people experience worse symptoms, hospitalizations, and death rates.

Please do the right thing and do NOT reopen the Port to cruise ship operations. I would like to hear back from you regarding my comments and the decisions you are making related to them. Thanks for listening.

Jim Bernthal  
4733 46th Ave. S.  
Seattle, WA 98118  
jimbernthal@hotmail.com  
206.295.6891