

From: [Ilene Friedman](#)
To: [Commission-Public-Records](#)
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Hello Commission,

As an elected body, meant to represent the people of Seattle for the Port, I would anticipate that our voices would be heard in our concern with the Seattle cruise industry coming back July 24th.

Environmentally, we have made so much progress during the COVID lockdown, seeing our whale populations increase, our biodiversity coming back, and our waters becoming clearer. As you know, cruise ships create all kinds of harmful pollution--noise pollution impacting our orca and whale populations, toxic emissions of carcinogens and particulate matter that impact human health or even cause early death, and large quantities of greenhouse gas emissions worsening the climate crisis. Even with port power, most cruise ships aren't advanced enough to utilize this environmentally friendly measure and lack any incentive to upgrade their infrastructure to accommodate the environmental goals of the port of Seattle.

The economic impact to communities from cruise ships have been found to be highly inflated by numerous studies. With shopping malls and discounted meals on the ships, very little is spent in local stores and restaurants. The money brought in by traditional tourists who stay in hotels and do all their activities in town is much higher. Workers on board cruise ships often make very low wages, work long hours, and lack labor law protections. Last year when outbreaks of COVID-19 happened, 10's of thousands of workers were stranded on the ships for months after guests were evacuated, often while not receiving any pay, some even taking their own lives. While workers were not being paid, cruise company CEO's [made millions](#), more even in 2020 than in 2019.

The Port of Seattle claims it wants to be "the greenest port in North America", yet it still wants to build an additional cruise ship terminal (and expand the airport, and expand/deepen our harbor to accommodate the world's biggest cargo ships). The port always brings up shore power in response to the argument that we shouldn't be expanding fossil fuel intensive industry while the climate crisis continues and scientists give 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%! In addition, most ships are not able to utilize shore power because they were built in the 80's/90's with no incentive to upgrade their infrastructure.

We should be implementing fines, new tax incentives, and build standards for ships entering our port. Why not find other ways to monetize a massive industry with Seattle being the gateway to Alaska (while Alaska is still a destination people want to go...you know...it won't always be...with all that ice melting and pollution happening anyway)

Ilene