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[EXTERNAL] public comment for Tuesday's meeting

Jordan Van Voast

Mon 6/27/2022 11:19 AM

To:

Commission-Public-Records

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

Dear Commission-Public-Records,

I won't be able to provide oral comment this time, please accept my written comment for the Commissioners:

Good afternoon Commissioners, My name is Jordan Van Voast. On Sunday, I stood at the entrance to the plaza at Terminal 66 where passengers were arriving to board a cruise ship bound for Alaska. Beads of sweat from the intense sun trickled down my back as I offered literature to passengers lining up with their luggage. Our demeanor and the import of our words was to wish them a happy vacation, but to encourage them to make it their last cruise, filling in the gaps of knowledge that many have regarding the many harmful aspects of the cruise ship industry.

We are in a climate emergency. Our first heat wave of 2022 resulted in only mildly unpleasant temperatures –near 90 degrees in my Seattle neighborhood, but a grim reminder of one year ago when the Pacific Northwest experienced epic heat and widespread suffering and death to humans and sea creatures, climaxing with a freak 121 degree heat dome and wildfire event at Lyndon, British Columbia.

Despite our smiles, friendly demeanor and a colorful artistic performance by Exxon on Rebellion's Red Rebels, most passengers marched quickly past our street theater and outreach, refusing to openly acknowledge our presence. One might surmise a bit of willful ignorance in force. But children are ever open minded. "I do this for your future", I told one child of perhaps ten years of age who took the flyer from my outstretched hand with an air of curiosity and subtle hint of a smile.

Dr. Elizabeth Kubler Ross, a pioneer in the field of near death, outlined the 5 steps of grief in her book "On Death and Dying". The first step, where our world is stuck – is denial. Climate scientists have been giving us the same clear prognosis for a half century. Our fossil fuel use is a terminal cancer that is quickly metastasizing. The recommended treatment: we need to immediately reduce greenhouse gas emissions now, not in 2050, or else our world faces catastrophic warming with climate disasters, suffering, death, and perhaps extinction in the not-too-distant future. And yet this Commission and the Port continues to swallow the opiate pills of capitalism that deny the clear and apparent danger our world faces in order to squeeze out a few more dollars of profit. Seattle Cruise Control recently submitted to the Commission a point-by-point refutation of the Green Corridor and have posted an op-Ed on our website.

Please act now to lead with the common good and the public trust that the Commission is sworn to uphold. Please make meaningful steps now to phase out cruise ships. Time is running out. Thank you.

Cartoon by Bob Mankoff: Business man standing at podium at a meeting with shareholders. "And so, while the end of the world scenario will be rife with unimaginable horrors, we believe that the pre-end period will be filled with unprecedented opportunities for profit"

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Every single act of kindness makes all the difference in the world.

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Dharma Friendship Foundation (DFF) Website  
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