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Mail - Commission-Public-Records - Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Cap and Reduce Cruise Sailings to Reach Zero Emissions
Jordan Van Voast
Mon 1/22/2024 4:00 PM
To: ?Commission-Public-Records ?

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Commission_Testimony Port Meeting,
Port of Seattle Commissioners and staff,

In light of cruise's multiple, well-documented harmful effects, I urge the Port of Seattle to cap the number of 2024 season sailings and passengers at or below 2019 levels, reducing these numbers every year until the industry no longer pollutes the oceans and air and no longer emits climate-changing greenhouse gases.

To do this, the Port of Seattle should quantify greenhouse gases emitted by cruise ships along the entire route from Seattle to Alaska. To get the true picture of our local cruise sector, the greenhouse gases that result from the flights that cruise passengers take to get to Seattle and home again must also be included. For transparency, these numbers should be made public annually.

Using 2024 as a baseline, we call on the Port to reduce GHG emissions from cruise in alignment with the schedule in the proposed Clean Shipping Act of 2023:

20% by 2027

45% by 2030

80% by 2035

100% by 2040

If these reductions cannot be achieved through zero- or low-emissions fuels, then they must be achieved through a reduction in the number of sailings.

We cannot wait decades for a voluntary corridor captained by the same industry that's poisoning our air and water. We cannot rely on goals that lack benchmarks or realistic ways to achieve actual reductions. We cannot focus on accounting tricks like net zero.

We need to cap and annually reduce the number of cruise sailings in order to reach zero emissions and zero toxic discharges by 2040.

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