



Legislation Text

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File #: Res 31793, Version: 1

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**CITY OF SEATTLE**

**RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_**

A RESOLUTION opposing a proposed liquefied natural gas facility in Tacoma, and urging the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency to reject its permit application.

WHEREAS, Puget Sound Energy (PSE), a for-profit company, has proposed and begun constructing a liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility at the Port of Tacoma in the Tacoma Tidelands for the purpose of producing, storing, and distributing liquefied natural gas; and

WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council considers climate change to be a threat to people everywhere in the world, and a vital concern for the people of Seattle; and

WHEREAS, in Resolution 31757 The City of Seattle committed to “doing its part to meet the United States’ obligation under the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius”; and

WHEREAS, natural gas, like other fossil fuels, emits carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change when used as a fuel source, and leaks along the natural gas supply chain emit methane, a gas with 86 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; and

WHEREAS, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Chapter 173-441, regarding the reporting of emissions of greenhouse gases, and WAC Chapter 173-442, known as the Clean Air Rule, establish greenhouse gas emission standards for natural gas distributors; and

WHEREAS, PSE joined other fossil fuel companies in suing Washington State in September 2016 to prevent the Clean Air Rule from being enforced; and

WHEREAS, natural gas is often extracted from the earth through hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”), causing

environmental damage beyond the impacts on climate change; and

WHEREAS, PSE's proposed LNG facility in Tacoma would process a steady supply of fracked gas from offsite wells, exposing communities living near those wells to toxic and carcinogenic chemicals used in the fracking process and polluting local waters; and

WHEREAS, LNG is natural gas that has been condensed into a liquid, taking one-six-hundredth the volume of its gas form when cooled to -260 degrees Fahrenheit; and

WHEREAS, PSE's proposed LNG facility includes a storage tank that could hold 8 million gallons of LNG, which is the equivalent of 4.8 billion gallons of natural gas in vapor form; and

WHEREAS, Tacoma is in the region of the Cascadian Subduction Zone, an area at high risk for earthquakes; and

WHEREAS, *The Seattle Times* reported that a natural gas explosion in a PSE gas line in Greenwood on March 9, 2016, "destroyed three businesses, damaged nearly three dozen others and injured nine firefighters"; and

WHEREAS, an investigation into the Greenwood explosion conducted by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) found that a cause of the explosion was "the improper retirement of the service line" in 2004, and PSE settled with the UTC for a total penalty of \$2.75 million with \$1.25 million suspended; and

WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council recognizes that mistakes happen, and considers concentrating the equivalent of 4.8 billion gallons of explosive natural gas in a metropolitan area an unacceptable risk; and

WHEREAS, on November 30, 2017, *Tacoma Weekly* quoted Puyallup Tribe Chairman Bill Sterud stating, "Such a large facility located in a densely populated area with a possibility of a major catastrophe is not only unacceptable for our entire tribal membership, but for all of the people in this region"; and

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians passed Resolution 17-51 in September 2017, "Opposing

the Siting of the Proposed Tacoma Liquefied Natural Gas Plant”; and

WHEREAS, PSE began construction of the LNG facility without first obtaining the necessary approval by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA), resulting in issuance of Notice of Violation 3-008343 by the PSCAA in April 2017; and

WHEREAS, the PSCAA is currently considering PSE’s application for a permit to build and operate the LNG plant in Tacoma; and

WHEREAS, Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan, represented by the Office of Sustainability and Environment, holds a seat on the Board of Directors of the PSCAA; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 the PSCAA will open a 60-day public comment period into PSE’s permit application for the LNG facility, and then will decide whether or not to issue the permit; and

WHEREAS, on April 19, 2016, *The News Tribune* reported that amid “widespread public criticism” an attempt by a multinational company to build “the world’s largest methanol plant” at the Port of Tacoma was defeated; NOW, THEREFORE,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE THAT:**

Section 1. The Seattle City Council opposes the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure in general, and specifically opposes the proposed siting of a new liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility by Puget Sound Energy (PSE) in Tacoma. The Seattle City Council requests the Office of Intergovernmental Relations communicate this resolution to the Northwest Seaport Alliance including the Port of Tacoma, the Tacoma City Council, the Mayor of Tacoma, and Washington State Governor Jay Inslee.

Section 2. The Seattle City Council urges the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) to reject PSE’s application for a permit for the proposed LNG facility. The Seattle City Council requests that Mayor Jenny Durkan seek every legal opportunity to use the influence of the Mayor’s position on the PSCAA Board of Directors to advocate for that permit to be rejected.

Section 3. The Seattle City Council urges the people of Seattle to participate in the PSCAA's public hearing into the permit application of PSE's LNG facility, and to file public comment in opposition to the facility. The Seattle City Council urges Seattleites to stand in solidarity with the Puyallup Tribe and the people of Tacoma in a united struggle against climate change and for a healthy and habitable world.

Adopted by the City Council the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

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President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

Filed by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

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Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)