

1 **Opposition To Puget Sound Energy’s Proposed**
2 **Liquefied Natural Gas Plant On The Tacoma Tide Flats**
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4 **WHEREAS** Puget Sound Energy (PSE), a for-profit company owned by foreign investor
5 Macquarie Group (Australia), has proposed construction of a massive, 18-story plant at
6 the Port of Tacoma for the production, storage and distribution of liquefied natural gas
7 (LNG);
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9 **WHEREAS** PSE has illegally begun construction of its LNG facility despite a lack of
10 required permits, has changed in the nature and scope of the project after the
11 Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) was issued, has been required by the Puget
12 Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) to complete a Supplemental Environmental Impact
13 Statement (SEIS) with a full life-cycle analysis of the upstream and downstream impacts
14 of the facility's greenhouse gas footprint, potentially compromising PSE's ability to
15 secure a permit; and is in breach of the existing in blatant disregard of a Treaty with the
16 Puyallup Tribe, a sovereign nation;
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18 **WHEREAS** the Puyallup Tribe has not given its consent to PSE’s project and has filed
19 lawsuits against its construction, based on its significant threat to Treaty-protected
20 fishing rights, and has subsequently garnered significant and broad support from both
21 local community members and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians;
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23 **WHEREAS** reducing pollution from greenhouse gases is a critical policy objective of the
24 State of Washington;
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26 **WHEREAS** the Washington Democratic Party Platform calls for “immediate aggressive
27 action to minimize climate change, as global climate change is the foremost threat to
28 survival of Earth as we know it”;
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30 **WHEREAS** Governor Inslee has affirmed his commitment to supporting the Paris
31 Climate Accords;
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33 **WHEREAS** natural gas is now recognized as a powerful contributor to climate change,
34 peer-reviewed studies having overwhelmingly found that emissions from fracking and
35 leaks along the supply chain effectively override the otherwise lesser environmental
36 impacts of gas usage;
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38 **WHEREAS** the PSE facility would require an on-going supply of fracked gas from
39 offsite wells, exposing communities near those wells to deadly toxins and carcinogens
40 used in the fracking process, and to permanent pollution of their local waters;
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42 **WHEREAS** the siting of the facility in an area of the Cascadia fault zone that is at high
43 risk of earthquakes and tsunamis, and will be regularly flooded by 2050 due to sea-level
44 rise and seasonal inundation, would pose an extreme and unacceptable hazard to local
45 residents;

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47 **WHEREAS** the current and future financial impacts of the siting of a large LNG plant in
48 an environmentally sensitive area have not been adequately calculated and made public
49 during the decision-making process; and

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51 **WHEREAS** the facility is sited adjacent to multiple Superfund sites and overlaps a
52 Washington Department of Ecology Hazardous site, exposing thousands of people
53 within a 3-mile radius to toxins and carcinogens during construction and operation, in
54 violation of federal law and common morality, leading to increased risk of cancer,
55 neurological disorders, birth defects, respiratory issues and other chronic health issues;

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57 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Washington State Democratic Central
58 Committee, firmly oppose construction of PSE's proposed LNG plant in Tacoma, and
59 that we urge the Tacoma City Council, Tacoma Mayor, Port of Tacoma, the Governor,
60 and all other relevant state, local and regional agencies to reject it forthwith;

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62 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** we urge all permitting agencies to immediately issue a
63 Stop Work Order;

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65 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we urge the Washington State Attorney General to
66 conduct a thorough review of the SEPA permitting process for the project, including the
67 many requests for a SEIS that have been made, and of the lawsuits that have been and
68 will be filed for the failings that have thus far occurred; and

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70 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that this resolution be sent to our Governor, Attorney
71 General, Commissioner of Public Lands, and to our entire delegation in the State
72 Legislature and any other relevant jurisdiction.

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74 Submitted by the 32nd Legislative District Democrats, the Environment and Climate
75 Caucus (ECC), and the Native American Caucus (NAC) for consideration at its January
76 28, 2018 meeting in Bellingham. (Dates Submitted 32nd - 1/12/2018, ECC - 1/26/2018,
77 NAC - 1/26/2018)

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79 The Resolutions Committee reviewed the resolution and recommend that it be passed.

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81 The Washington State Democratic Central Committee approved this resolution on
82 1/28/18.