I urge the City of Vancouver to take the bold action to protect the health and safety of the community by investing in a Climate Action Plan and Fossil Fuel Ordinance to prohibit the construction of new and expanded fossil fuel facilities in Vancouver. The Climate Action Plan would reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by increasing walking, biking, and transit. It would also increase tree canopy and open spaces which would not only beautify the city, but also serve as carbon storage. Furthermore, this plan would improve land use and concentrate growth as well as increase housing options.

According to the WA Dept of Health Disparities Map, the communities surrounding the Port rank the highest in pollution and environmental health impacts. These neighborhoods tend to be low income and Black, Indigenous, and people of color, thereby impacting BIPOC communities to a much greater degree.

The Fossil Fuel Moratorium to safeguard our communities would support a more equitable solution to BIPOC communities by permanently prohibiting new bulk crude oil facilities and other build fossil fuels. It is time to prioritize the health and safety of our communities rather than continuing to support the fossil fuel industry. Furthermore, Vancouver’s large-scale follis fuel facilities are all at moderate to high risk for liquefaction by an earthquake. Our communities deserve to breathe clean air and drink clean water. I urge you to take action to permanently protect our community. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.