



WASHINGTON
PHYSICIANS
FOR SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY

October 29th, 2018

Local Health Professionals Urge Protections for Air and Climate

Dear members of Tacoma City Council,

We are health professionals who live and/or work in Tacoma. **We ask that you renew the pause on new fossil fuel infrastructure on Tacoma's Tideflats - and strengthen the moratorium by limiting expansion of existing facilities - for the sake our community's health.**

The interim regulations passed last year are vital protections for keeping our communities safe from new or expanded fossil fuel infrastructure.¹ They must be renewed now and throughout the duration of the Subarea planning process while a long-term economic vision for our community is crafted.

Fossil fuel projects represent significant threats to human health. Studies show that proximity to fossil fuel infrastructure is linked to increased air pollution that exacerbates asthma, threatens cardiovascular health, and contributes to neurodevelopmental damage.^{2,3,4} Pollutants emitted from processing and refining of oil and gas products include toxic air contaminants and carcinogens. These include particulate matter, which can lodge deep into lungs and contribute to asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and volatile organic compounds that disproportionately harm children and infants.⁵ Closing fossil fuel plants has also been shown to reduce preterm births.⁶ A report from the National Medical Association and NAACP last year revealed that people of color are more likely to reside near oil and gas plants, and that the proximity is correlated with higher exposure to air toxics, cancer risk, and respiratory ailments.⁷ The proximity of the Puyallup Tribe and their historic treaty rights, in addition to the hundreds of immigrants detained at the Northwest Detention Center within view of the Tideflats, make these protections even more urgent.

Tacoma is already home to major fossil fuel facilities, including US Oil and Targa Sound Terminal. **Pierce County residents and communities of color in particular already suffer**

¹ City of Tacoma, [Amended Resolution No. 39723](#)

² The Healthcare Burden of Fossil Fuels, [Union of Concerned Scientists](#), <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/graphic-science-health-care-burden-of-fossil-fuels/>

³ Position Paper on Crude Oil Transport and Storage, [Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility](#), <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BxmHEo6N5zkRMG5PMk5DTjVybUk/view>

⁴ "Neurodegenerative and neurological disorders by small inhaled particles" *Neurotoxicology*, Volume 59, 2016, pp. 94-106. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0161813X16301346?via%3Dihub>

⁵ "Potential hazards of air pollutant emissions from unconventional oil and natural gas operations on the respiratory health of children and infants."

⁶ "Study: Closing fossil fuel plants reduced preterm births." *Yale Climate Connections*, 2018.

<https://www.yaleclimateconnections.org/2018/08/closing-fossil-fuel-plants-reduces-preterm-births/>

⁷ "Fumes Across the Fenceline," [the NAACP, National Medical Association, and Clean Air Task Force](#)



WASHINGTON
PHYSICIANS
FOR SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY

higher rates of heart disease, and diabetes than the Washington State average.⁸ Two hospitals are within three miles to these industries.

As healthcare professionals we are particularly concerned about the expansion of existing fossil fuel facilities in Tacoma. **We encourage you to strengthen the regulations by limiting the ability of existing fossil fuel facilities to expand.** Thank you for protecting our community's health.

Thank you,

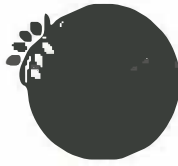
Valerie	Watamara	RNC	98466
June	Bosse	RNC	98023
Kimberly	Patamia	RNC	98166
Joan	Fischer	CNM	98516
Jennifer	Banda	CNM	98373
JF	Yuvienco	MD	98402
Nasir	Shariff	MD	98406
Brendon	Hutchinson	MD	98405
Katie	Wilkenson	MD	98406
Saif	Kasabhai	MD	98101
Stanlee	Lu	MD	98146
Aashiyana	Koreishi	MD	98403
Raed	Fahmy	MD	98332
Michael	Martinez	MD	98108
Brad	Howeiler	MD	98335
Tarun	Tandun	MD	98335
Cabrini	Sutherland	MD	98407
Megan	Cechini	MD	98332
Steven	Kodama	MD	98112
Chelsea	King	Senior II BSN Student	98371
Bianca	Llorico	Senior II BSN Student	98444
Angel	Trinh	Senior II BSN Student	98444

⁸ "Pierce County Chronic Disease and Risk Factor Profile," Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, 2017.



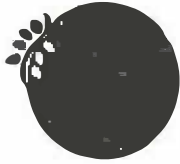
WASHINGTON
PHYSICIANS
FOR SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY

Nicole	A-Leonce	Senior II Nursing Student	98444
Fatoumatta	Conteh	Senior II PLU BSN Student	98441
Amani	Burini	Senior II PLU BSN Student	98465
Adriana	Reimos	Senior II PLU BSN Student	98466
Jessica	Schwinck	DN	98372
Marylou	Robinson	PhD, FNP-C	980516
Rick	Knowlton		98329
Whitney	Jones	Senior 2 Nursing Student	98321
Jessica	Fritschle	Senior 2 Nursing Student	98092
Tess	Jenkins	Senior 2 Nursing Student	97089
Jessi	Sbegglen	Senior 2 Nursing Student	98375
Karman	Hayenga	Senior 2 Nursing Student	98053
Carrissa	McGuire	Senior 2 Nursing Student	98372
Alana	Nunez	Senior 2 Nursing Student	98391
Rachel	Torres	Senior 2 Nursing Student	98030



WASHINGTON
PHYSICIANS
FOR SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY

Jordan	Barger	Senior 2 Nursing Student	98444
Christina	Pepin	RN	98335
Melissa	Ivie	RN	98407
Christina	Bruce	RN	98366
Johnette	Maehren	DO	98403
Andrea	Gilbertson	RN	98467
Jaime	Patten	RN	98467
Jennifer	Hall	RNC	98391
Kari	Gaspar	RNC	98422
Rose	Lburich	CAN	98408
Jenny	Dewitz	RN	98465
Amy	Pepper	RN	98374
Jennifer	Campbell	RNC	98499
Jenine	Laughead	RNC	98503
Kiora	Devilla	RN	98338
Leslie	Shear	CNM, ARNP	98144
Heather	Tramel	RN	98506
Jennifer	Eagle	CNM, ARNP	98332
Annika	Malonberg	MD	98407
Cindy	Babcock	St	98406
Marlayne	Hall	ORT	98338
Eliza	Woods	RNC	98499
Jennifer	Amdal	RNC	98422
Jennifer	Riffel	CNM, ARNP	98406
Sylvia	Woods	RN/CNM/ARNP	98374
?	?	RNC	98445
Vi	Phong	SR. II Nursing Student	98498
Tobby	Yuvienco	SR. II Nursing Student	98387



WASHINGTON
PHYSICIANS
FOR SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY

Genny	Mock	SR. II Nursing Student	98444
Lan	Dang	SR. II Nursing Student	98445
Roxanne	Javier	SR. II Nursing Student	98408
Joe	Romero	SR. II Nursing Student	98503
Linda	Trader	SR. II Nursing Student	98516
Anne	Pusin	SR. II Nursing Student	98405
Mary	Barga	SR. II Nursing Student	98393
Alicia	Clifton	SR. II Nursing Student	98374
Boris	Potapov	SR. II Nursing Student	98407
Erla	Champ-Gibson	Assistant professor of nursing PhD, Mdiv,BSN	98447
Kat	Wood	Technician, St. Joseph Medical Center	
Kenra	Brewer	RN	
Rachael	DeSouza	RN	
Peggy	Novotny	RN	