

# Washington Public Ports Association

It's good to participate in this today. I appreciate it from the perspective of the Washington public ports Association. We recognize it's a serious issue. It's certainly an issue that our members' communities expect them to pay attention to and act on.

Yes, just a quick survey of what ports do--many of our ports are very involved in reducing emissions from their facilities and helping their customers, their clients, lessees, and people who use their facilities also reduce emissions in a broader sense. So we recognize there's a broader perspective here, or a broader responsibility, I should say to deal with climate issues.

I did note some of that some of so, from our perspective, a lot of our engagement with this is sort of a practical thing. As lead agencies, what's required of us? And I think that it was, I guess one of the things that stood out to me today, in Bill Drumheller's presentation, which I appreciated and learned a lot from. But the statement that the analysis is circular is something that is problematic for folks who are in the process of trying to develop an EIS under SEPA. I think, what would be most helpful in addition to have some clarity about issues is really clear guidelines from the Department of that say, "you need to do this and then that's enough." So, it's a very clear sort of bright line on the agencies part to eliminate uncertainty for the lead agencies and project proponents.

You've heard me say previously that from our point of view greenhouse gas is a greenhouse gas is a greenhouse gas, regardless of whether that's a large industrial facility or another action or facility that emits greenhouse gases, they all emit greenhouse gases. And if you are a lead agency or project proponent for and need are required to do a SEPA analysis, you need to have some sense of what significant emission and what to do about it. Some of that, we're starting to talk about here in terms of calculation.

And and I think, maybe just one broad, broad comment. There is an inter-relationship between--in a large sense--our economy, our communities, and our environment and that, that triangle is the core of what sustainability is. And wise, public policy tries to balance those things and, you know. There are elements of what we're talking about here that require a thoughtful engagement and balancing of interest and it's not from our view, from the point of view of Washington Public Ports, it's not this part of the community against that part of the community. It's a very thoughtful deliberative of conversation about how to protect our interest in our community. Our health interest and our other community interests are obvious environmental interests and the competitive--competitiveness of our economy, which arguably is a foundation of being able to achieve our community and environmental goals. So, and that's the challenge before the State of Washington. It also happens to be the challenge before the United States of America and more broadly the world, as we take on this problem that we gotta take on.

So, thank you for the presentation today. I'm learning from other comments here I look forward to and hope very much to talk with some of the other people who are involved in this process about how we can work together to shape a rule that meets broad needs. So thank you very much for the chance to to present.