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There is a yawning loophole that allows cruise ships to burn one of the dirtiest fossil fuels on earth - heavy fuel oil - by 'scrubbing' the exhaust and discharge the toxin-laden wastewater directly into the ocean. That's why I support amendment #2 to ban scrubbers.

This is a huge opportunity for the cruise sector to show that they are committed to changing their polluting ways by agreeing to end the dumping of all scrubber wastes in Puget Sound. Please approve amendment #2 and ban scrubbers. Marine ecosystem needs a healthy home to survive. The COVID-19 pandemic has been an ongoing tragedy on a global scale, but the resulting cessation of cruise vessel traffic in the Puget Sound has been a welcome reprieve from the water pollution these ships create. That's why scrubber dumping cannot return to the Sound. I support amendment #2.

Whales play a vital role in the marine ecosystem where they help provide at least half of the oxygen you breathe, combat climate change, and sustain fish stocks. Phytoplankton absorbs carbon from the atmosphere – hundreds of thousands of tons each year.

Unlike plants on land, phytoplankton cannot root into the ocean bottom to retrieve the nutrients they need. Where do they get it? Research shows that whales bring it to them! Because whales can't "poop" under pressure, they take their bathroom breaks at the ocean's surface and by doing so, supply phytoplankton with life giving nutrients like iron, nitrogen and phosphorus. Whales are the ocean's gardeners, tending the forest of phytoplankton on which we all depend. And because whales migrate, they re-distribute nutrients across latitudes. This process is called the "Whale Pump".

Please protect our beloved whale friends and all marine life, as they are key to our survival. Thank you.