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The cruise industry's attempts to persuade US consumers and Puget Sound residents that their toxic, fossil fuel wastewater will not end up in the ocean is to tell us that nifty, gee-whiz gadgets called "scrubbers" will save the day. This is abject horsepuckey: the pollutants may change in state (air to water) but this is NOT an improvement--and they do not go away.

This is tantamount sweeping dirt under a carpet--but where that metaphor fails is that the carpet's underside is in fact our beautiful, irreplaceable, unique water ecosystems and the marvelous species that call that their home--including the iconic and already desperately endangered Orca Whale, as well as the Chinook salmon populations on which they depend.

Ban scrubber discharge of waste; let's use this Memorandum of Understanding to protect our common natural inheritance while it still exists!