

February 26, 2021, Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) Public Hearing on PSE's Draft Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) for Electricity and Natural Gas Service

My Two Minute Public Comment Notes:

Good afternoon Commissioners. My name is Joe Deets, I am a Councilmember for the City of Bainbridge Island. I am here as one Councilmember, not as a representative of the full Council, or of the City.

I am grateful for this opportunity to speak to you today regarding Puget Sound Energy's draft Integrated Resource Plan. This IRP is, as presented, sorely insufficient for addressing the challenge of climate change. It will make the work that I have been tasked to do by my constituents much more difficult, if not impossible, and I ask the Commissioners to reject it.

In late 2020, with strong community support the Bainbridge Island City Council unanimously approved an Island-wide Climate Action Plan. The CAP, as we call it, is a comprehensive roadmap encompassing specific actions for reducing our greenhouse gases and increasing our resilience as the climate changes. The goals are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 90% by 2045 compared to 2014 levels, with milestones of 25% by 2025, and 60% by 2035.

Notably to the UTC and this Public Hearing, PSE plays an outsized role in making these reductions a reality, for the electricity generation they provide us accounts for more than half of our emissions. Their decided approach of relying on building new natural gas plants will make reaching these goals difficult, if not impossible.

I ask that you to reject this IRP in favor of one that transitions to 100% clean energy as quickly as possible.

- An IRP that accounts for the Climate Action Plans of jurisdictions in the utility's service territory.
- An IRP that gives priority to investing, not in natural gas, but energy efficiency, renewable energy, storage capacity and demand response.
- And, most importantly, an IRP that embodies the moral imperative of enabling communities that the utility serves to build-up their climate resilience, thus helping to ensure that future generations will have the opportunity to live life as we have all become accustomed to.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to speak.