

October 3, 2023

Mary E. Kipp
President & CEO
Puget Sound Energy Corporation

Dear Mary E. Kipp,

The undersigned environmental and social justice organizations are writing to you to request that Puget Sound Energy (PSE) withdraw its membership from the American Gas Association.

As you know, [AGA has become a significant barrier to climate action](#). This is especially true as it relates to eliminating emissions from the building sector. There is a significant misalignment between PSE's commitment to decarbonization and how AGA uses its membership dues to fight climate policies across the nation.

The actions of the American Gas Association do not align with PSE's values. AGA has been instrumental in undermining climate policy at the local, state and federal level. [AGA uses its member's dues](#) to spread misinformation, funding pro-gas front groups to fight the same electrification policies PSE has supported. AGA fights efficiency standards that will help save Americans money and cut pollution. They have [led an effort](#) to ban local governments in dozens of states from utilizing their authority to increase energy efficiency and upgrade buildings to cut pollution and ensure residents can withstand the impacts of climate change. And - much like the tobacco industry - they've done considerable harm by [hiring pay-to-play toxicologists in an attempt to mislead the public about the science around the health harms from burning gas indoors](#).

We're grateful for PSE's partnership on many decarbonization efforts in Washington. PSE's broad support of decarbonization, and [its championing of legislation to transition the utility away from its gas business](#) are laudatory. The utility has set itself apart with its clear dedication to environmental and climate stewardship.

Yet by sending hundreds of thousands of Washingtonian's hard-earned dollars to an organization that is fighting the very objectives and policies that PSE and your customers support, the utility is effectively undermining its own goals as well as the goals of its customers and supporting a toxic brand of climate denial. It is difficult to see how PSE can continue to meet its own commitments and live up to its values while financially contributing to the harmful actions of this trade association. How can you engage in good faith with your investors, customers and policymakers as you actively seek out climate solutions, while also propping up a key barrier to those solutions?

We recently [learned that Eversource Energy, an investor-owned utility that sells both electricity and gas in the Northeast, has decided to end its membership with the American Gas](#)

[Association](#) (AGA), in order to “redirect costs to more targeted associations and memberships with a focus on decarbonization”.

Eversource is offering a clear example that a major gas service provider can continue to safely and responsibly provide its operations without supporting the climate obstruction carried out by the American Gas Association. By shifting support to more aligned trade associations - as Eversource is doing - PSE can simultaneously provide safe energy service to Washington without undermining its own commitment to a healthier future.

The undersigned organizations strongly urge PSE to leave the American Gas Association. Just as utilities abandoned the American Coalition for Clean Coal over the association’s efforts to mislead the public over coal policy, so too must utilities now stand up to AGA’s actions to stall the transition to clean electricity. Leaving AGA would not only ensure Washingtonian’s ratepayer dollars are not being misused, it would send a strong signal to other utilities that the era of climate obstruction must end, as we all partner to help safeguard Americans from the devastating impacts of climate change.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jess Wallach, Campaigns Co-Director, 350 Seattle

Lauren McCloy, Policy Director, NW Energy Coalition

James Moschella, Climate and Health Program Manager, WA Physicians for Social Responsibility

Kelly Hall, Washington State Director, Climate Solutions

Jan Hasselman, Senior Attorney, Earthjustice

Dylan Plummer, Senior Field Organizer, Sierra Club

Robin B Crowder, Co-Director, 21 Acres Center for Local Food & Sustainable Living

Brian Stewart, Co-Founder, Electrify Now

Danny Noonan, Climate and Energy Strategist, Breach Collective

Sue Craig, Interfaith Earthkeepers Eugene/Springfield, Oregon

David Delk, Oregon UU Voices for Justice

Patricia Hine, President, 350 Eugene

Karen Harrington, Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter, Chair Legislative Committee