



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS *of the* **UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND**

Resolution Opposing the Construction of the Liquefied Natural Gas Plant (LNG) in Tacoma

Authored by: President Amanda Díaz

With inspiration and consultation from: ASPLU and ASPLU President Hilary Vo

Drafted in consultation with ECO Club and select faculty

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WHEREAS, the name of this resolution shall be “Resolution Opposing the Construction of LNG Plant in Tacoma.”

WHEREAS, the ASUPS Senate recognizes that our University of Puget Sound is located on lands that have been forcefully removed from the Puyallup and Nisqually Tribes.

WHEREAS, according to the the 2017-2018 Executive branch’s core values of equity, justice, transparency and community, “ASUPS recognizes that we must be full and intentional members of our community in Tacoma. We commit ourselves to solidarity with the city and to mutual learning and collaboration with the city we reside in.”

WHEREAS, the ASUPS Senate recognizes that the Puyallup tribe was not meaningfully consulted about the construction of this project.

WHEREAS, the ASUPS Senate recognizes that the LNG plant poses a threat to the native lands, waters, and the indigenous peoples and recognizes that the LNG plant removes the right to the Puyallup’s rights to fish, waters, air, and may be unsafe for the residents that live near the proposed LNG plant.

WHEREAS, the ASUPS Senate recognizes that the LNG plant includes the risks of oil spills, blast zones, pollution, and explosions that are a serious danger to members of the Tacoma community.

WHEREAS, the ASUPS Senate recognizes that even students who attend the University of Puget Sound who are neither from Tacoma nor are native to the lands of the United States still value the human and environmental integrity and the well-being of the Tacoma community.

WHEREAS, the ASUPS Senate recognizes that the LNG plant includes the risks of an explosion and that our community in Tacoma will be at risk, especially those detained at the Northwest Detention Center who have effectively no guaranteed safety.

WHEREAS, the ASUPS Senate recognizes that the LNG plant is making new investments in natural gas at a time when there are increased concerns about climate change and fossil-fuel emissions.

WHEREAS, the ASUPS Senate recognizes that building the LNG plant is requiring the reopening of an old fire station in the port of Tacoma that was closed because there were not enough taxpayer dollars to pay for its operation. Taxpayers will be expected to pay for most of the operational costs of this new fire station which means cutting into the budgets of other valuable social and economic programs in Tacoma and raising taxes.

WHEREAS, the majority of natural gas brought to market in North America comes from the fracking process that utilizes fluids that would irreparably contaminate the water supplies of communities far from Tacoma, disproportionately affecting rural communities, indigenous communities, and poor communities.

WHEREAS, methane, the main component of LNG, is a damaging greenhouse gas and its impact is further exacerbated by the inefficient extraction and transportation processes.

WHEREAS, owners and developers of the LNG refinery intend to operate the refinery for 50 years and have retained the option to lease the land for that period, thus allowing the continuation of the harm described above until the year 2066.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Puget Sound:

THAT, it fully supports the recognition, respect, and empowerment of Indigenous Peoples in the Seattle-Tacoma area.

THAT, it calls upon the University of Puget Sound administration, Faculty Senate, and Board of Trustees to lend their full opposition of the construction of the pipeline.

THAT, it is committed to radical and inclusive sustainability and the divestment from fossil fuels.

THAT, it calls on The City of Tacoma and the Port of Tacoma to respect and consult with First Peoples on this project.

THAT, it will continue to advocate and act against any further harm to First Peoples on our campus and in our larger Tacoma community.

THAT, the ASUPS Senate hereby resolves to oppose the construction of the Liquefied Natural Gas Plant (LNG) in Tacoma, Washington.