Coal is a dirty, dangerous, and increasingly expensive fuel. If you are a Puget Sound Energy (PSE) customer, you may be surprised to learn that over 30% of your electricity is powered by coal. By transitioning from coal to clean energy, we can significantly reduce pollution, cut carbon emissions and create new Washington Jobs.

PSE is the single largest owner of the Colstrip Coal plant, located in Eastern Montana. PSE’s coal plant is one of the largest emitters of carbon pollution in the West—a huge regional contributor to climate change, which already threatens our families, communities and children’s future. Climate change affects our everyday lives, disrupting everything from our water supplies and food systems, to the spread of pests, damage to shellfish and changes in sea level on our Pacific coast. PSE’s coal plant also harms our neighbors: its pollution threatens local ranchers’ water supplies and causes life-threatening health problems near the plant.

**It's time for PSE to retire their coal plant.** Already, across the U.S., countless communities and individuals have declared that the economic, public health and environmental costs of coal power are too high. The result? More than 140 plants across the country are schedule to retire, including the Boardman and TransAlta coal plants here in the Northwest.

The writing is on the wall, **PSE's coal plant is just too dirty and expensive.** In Governor Jay Inslee’s climate plan for Washington, transitioning away from coal is a high priority. What's more, the US Environmental Protection Agency just released its proposed carbon protections: again, the focus is on coal plants, including Colstrip. The EPA's proposal will protect human and environmental health by requiring coal plants like Colstrip to limit the amount of carbon pollution they emit. As if this weren't enough, ratepayers...
have another reason to demand change: PSE has liability for Colstrip’s ongoing air and water pollution from burning coal and disposing of toxic ash, as well as a myriad of other pollution problems. State regulators question whether PSE should continue spending ratepayer money fixing the plant to meet modern pollution standards. The Washington Utility and Transportation Commission has stated: “To embark on investments [on Colstrip] with so much uncertainty could be harmful to PSE, its ratepayers and the broader public interest.”

State regulators have asked PSE to come up with a detailed plan on how they are going to address their coal problem. They have encouraged PSE to initiate a proceeding that will specifically address the full costs of their coal power, and how they plan to retire the plant. We want PSE to provide a plan that accounts for the true cost of coal and also shows how we can transition to clean energy. By getting off coal and investing its resources in clean, renewable energy, PSE can power good careers in Washington and the Northwest through energy efficiency, and wind and solar power.

It is time for PSE to join Governor Inslee and thousands of Washingtonians who want to move beyond coal to embrace clean energy and create local jobs. PSE should hold this proceeding and involve all affected communities. They, and we, have a choice to make—dump hundreds of millions of dollars of our hard-earned money into an outdated, out-of-state coal plant, or invest in clean energy jobs here at home that protect community health and combat climate change.

Our future lies not in old, dirty coal-fired power, but in energy efficiency and renewable energy choices that make homes more comfortable, lower electricity bills, and further building our local innovation in the wind and solar industries. As we upgrade our buildings and invest in new cleaner sources of energy, we can create local jobs, stimulate new in-state businesses, and create a diverse and safe energy future for Washington. We have abundant clean, affordable energy resources, and a tradition of innovation and leadership in sustainability to guide us.