

Dear Ms. Thoman,

We sent the following e-mail to each of the port commissioners in an attempt to stop the proposed trucking of Sulfur through our city streets. We are really sick of the coke dust we must endure constantly and do not want any further pollution in our already bad air. This is a beautiful city and it is absolutely a crime that MONEY has been allowed to influence our city and port officials to the point that they will allow coke production and other pollution from the refineries, and now are planning even more hazardous transportation. We lived in the Washington DC area for a couple of years, and hazardous materials had to be transported miles away from DC!!! No hazardous materials were allowed in the city limits. So why are we so stupid that we will risk the lives of our citizenry for a handful of dollars from a business that should not even exist in the first place? There are few (actually I don't know any) uses for sulfur beyond the manufacture of weapons. How blind can we all be? My wife and I are anti-war, anti-hate, and anti-pollution. Let's stop this madness right now.

-----text of letters to commissioners-----

My wife and I are old residents of Anacortes. We left the city over twenty years ago, but bought a condo for our retirement and moved back home in January of this year.

Since we have been back we have found that the air quality is drastically worse than it was twenty years ago. The trucking of coke down R avenue has resulted in a great deal of airborne particles and we have been working with the Air Quality Board in Mt. Vernon to determine what to do about it. During the summer we have a fan in one window to cool our place with a HEPA filter to cut down on the pollution. Within three weeks the filter is absolutely black. At this point we are considering contacting the NRDC since the Air Quality Board seems to be in the pocket of the refineries.

Now we read about your intent to allow SULFUR to join this horrible pollution we already breathe! With the coke dust we already know that truckers do not keep the promises made by the oil companies, and it is just as unlikely that promises made by whoever is wanting to transport sulfur will be kept.

Our health is already in jeopardy from poor air quality. My wife and I both have bad coughs that just won't go away, and even during the winter, staying inside, we find that the damned black dust settles on everything. We live three stories above ground level, two blocks from R Avenue. Please do not add to our misery, and that of other residents of this beautiful island, by adding still more industrial pollution to our air. And we know you cannot believe big business. Look at the refineries. Look at Wall Street. There are better ways to make money. We won't be a desirable tourist attraction with nasty smelling air.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ron and Sharyan Watts
910 34th Street
Unit 301
Anacortes, WA 98221