

Port Commissioner Signs “No Fossil Fuel Money” Pledge

Columbia County Port Commissioner Nancy Ward has signed on to the “No Fossil Fuel Money” Pledge.

Taking the pledge means that a politician or candidate’s campaign adopts a policy to not knowingly accept any contributions over \$200 from the PACs, lobbyists, or SEC-named executives of fossil fuel companies – companies whose primary business is the extraction, processing, distribution, or sale of oil, gas, or coal.

“I want to be aligned with the future,” says Ward about her reasoning for signing the pledge. “And I don’t believe that fossil fuels are our future. This really was a no-brainer for me and easy for me to sign on to.”

The Pledge reads: “I pledge not to take contributions over \$200 from oil, gas, and coal industry executives, lobbyists, and PACs and instead prioritize the health of our families, climate, and democracy over fossil fuel industry profits.”

“I also want to be clear that I participate in our world as it is given to me – meaning I drive a car, I occasionally, when I have no choice, buy things packaged in plastic,” says Ward. “I’m not able to escape it, and I understand



that we are where we are today because of this long history, ever since the industrial revolution. But where is our future? I want to be aligned with renewable fuels, with wind and solar, and all the other alternative means, so we can get ourselves weened off fossil fuels.”

Ward was elected to the Port of Columbia County Board of Commissioner Position #1 in May of 2019. She is currently serving as the Secretary for the Board. She said she was slightly surprised that the pledge was available to local elected officials, after first hearing about it.

“The other thing is that I really just disagree with money in politics,”

explains Ward. “Money isn’t important to me as an elected official, what’s important to me is who I’m aligned with. I would really like to try and promote us getting back to more local influence in our elections and get away from corporate money.”

Ward moved to Columbia County 13 years ago. She engages her interest in the political process both locally and at the state level where she has advocated for a wide spectrum of issues – from more options and education at end of life, to a more inclusive

democracy through Community Rights. She has been an involved observer of the Port for many years. Ward also co-hosts a radio program on KOHI about everything local, environmental, and political.

“Even if you’re not against fossil fuels from a climate change position, this is a finite resource, so at some point it’s going to disappear,” says Ward. “If we do nothing, and obviously this isn’t going to happen in my lifetime, but if we do nothing to move towards a different energy source, then we’re going to be caught off guard at some point.”

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Jehovah Nissi
El Shadia
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Jehovah Makodishkem (the Lord who sanctifies)
El Roi
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