

You have heard that “behind every great fortune is a great crime.” A handful of people stand to make a great fortune from the dirty energy inland port. But the rest of us will come to see it as Utah’s greatest crime.

We now live in a world where evidence, science, facts, truth, logic, common sense, and objective reality have all become endangered species. We don’t just live in an age of normalizing alternative facts, many politicians on Utah’s Capitol Hill live in an alternative universe. We also live in a world where the rich and powerful, and the politically connected, write public policy to increase their advantage and their wealth, at the expense of everyone else. And there is no better example of both of these pernicious trends than the dirty energy inland port.

Behind a smoke screen of words like “sustainable,” “the greenest ever,” “net zero,” and “electrified,” the Port’s Pied Pipers want you to think it’s the second coming of the Green New Deal. But in the real world it’s just a zombie return of the Brown Old Deal.

We are driving full throttle to the edge of the cliff where the climate crisis will imperil every person on earth. But the Port’s Pied Pipers say we don’t need to worry about that, we can ship even more dirty energy out of the state--more coal, oil and gas, more tar sands and oil shale, and it won’t accelerate the climate crisis. They might as well ask you to believe in Big Foot.

The Port’s Pied Pipers want us to trust them that adding ten thousand more diesel semi-trucks to the Salt Lake Valley, 20,000 more commuters, hundreds more plane trips, dozens more smoking train locomotives won’t affect the air you breathe or your health. What they’re asking us, is to pretend that air pollution is just pixie dust so it doesn’t really matter. Air pollution is hardly pixie dust. It’s deadly. It matters, all of it. Every bit of it is a death sentence to someone, or a trip to the hospital for someone else. No one can escape it, not newborns, school children, or pregnant mothers, not the elderly, the sick or afflicted.

Between 1,000 and 2,000 Utahns die every year due to our air pollution, and more will lose their lives because of the pollution from this port. How many more lives is it Ok to lose before this becomes immoral? 10, 50, 500?

The Port’s Pied Pipers say trust us, we’ll make 20,000 acres of prime mosquito habitat tolerable for people living and working at the inland port. And how will they do that? They’ll plaster it

with pesticides over and over, every summer, year after year, and pretend that it won't drift over everyone in the Valley. They might as well ask you to believe in unicorns. Every pregnant mother from Bountiful to Draper, will have to choose between holding her breath for nine months, or inhaling a little more of these toxic chemicals, harming the developing brain of her newborn.

We have freeways that are already so congested they are parking lots at rush hour. The Port's Pied Pipers want you to trust them, that all this new traffic won't make that worse. They might as well ask you to believe in Leprechauns.

The inland port battle is very simple. It's a battle between the greed of the rich and powerful, and the health of the rest of us. Between selfishness at the top and quality of life for all. Between a 19th century economy and 21st century economy. Between an uninhabitable climate, and a livable future. We refuse to subsidize the politically connected getting rich while we pay the consequences. We refuse to sacrifice our future for the profits of Rio Tinto, the Colemena Group, the Romney Group and the politicians that counted on us sitting on our hands and remaining silent. We're not going to sit on our hands. Repeal the Port! We're not going to remain silent. Repeal the Port! We're not going to be intimidated! Repeal the Port! And we're not going to stop, until they--Repeal the Port!