December 2, 2021

City of Tacoma City Council
747 Market St.
Room 345
Tacoma, WA 98402

VIA EMAIL: cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org

RE: Draft Tacoma Climate Action Plan

Dear Mayor Woodards and the Members of the Tacoma City Council:

U.S. Oil appreciates the opportunity to comment on Tacoma’s Draft Climate Action Plan. While we cannot provide meaningful comments on areas which are not within our expertise, we would like to speak to the energy components of the proposed plan.

Although today we refine petroleum-based feedstocks and distribute the resulting refined products, we view our company as a producer and supplier of liquid fuels to local markets. As we move into a more carbon-conscious future, it is extremely important to maintain the flexibility to evolve our feedstocks and reduce their carbon intensity while providing energy-dense liquid fuels to our communities.

Transitions are difficult. Without fuel supplies and distribution networks, it is challenging to transition to new forms of transportation. Similarly, without sufficient demand, it is very challenging to build the needed resources. We are hopeful that the Build Back Better Act will provide funds for cities like Tacoma to bridge the gap between now and a new, lower carbon future.

We would encourage the city of Tacoma to take a structured approach to identify pathways to develop regional renewables hubs to transform our energy markets by smartly leveraging existing infrastructure with focused innovation and entrepreneurial know-how. Rather than focusing on what existing industries can and cannot do, it would be more productive to focus on finding and incenting equitable energy investments that build resilient energy system that grow the economy and establish a resilient.

Finally, as the report aptly noted – collaboration, partnership and engagement are key behaviors to progress the changes outlined in the Climate Action Plan. For U.S. Oil, we commit to participating actively and sharing our experience and technical know-how to support Tacoma’s vision of the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Troske
Refinery Manager and VP, Manufacturing
U.S. Oil and Refining Co.