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Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2026 9:00 AM
To: Peter Prekeges; Tripp Hutchinson; Spencer Cordovano; Matthew McGraw; Randy Hall; Participate
Subject: Submission for the Public Record of the KCC– The Fondle of Hormuz
Attachments: The_Fondle_of_Hormuz_July_2026.pdf

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Dear Mayor and Council Members,

Attached for inclusion in the public record of the Council is a brief essay entitled "**THE FONDLE OF HORMUZ: A Message to the Perpetrators of Great Narrative Spectacle.**"

The essay reflects on the importance—at every level of government, local, state, and federal—of independent verification, evidentiary reasoning, and the role of citizens in a constitutional republic when evaluating consequential public claims. Whatever one's conclusions on any particular issue, the principles of evidence, reason, and the rule of law remain indispensable to self-government.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

THE FONDLE OF HORMUZ
A Message to the Perpetrators of Great Narrative Spectacle
July 12, 2026

For months, the public was warned that the Strait of Hormuz stood on the brink of closure. Headlines warned of catastrophic disruption, collapsing energy supplies, and an impending global economic crisis. Government officials issued grave warnings. Television screens filled with maps, arrows, flashing graphics, and dramatic speculation. Commentators spoke with confidence. Once again, the public was told to prepare for the unimaginable.

Yet those willing to look beyond the headlines could observe something very different.

There remained another source of information—one available not merely to governments and intelligence agencies, but to anyone willing to examine it. Commercial AIS vessel-tracking systems, relied upon every day throughout the maritime industry, continued to display commercial shipping moving through the Strait, as usual. Tankers and supertankers, container ships, LNG carriers, vehicle carriers, and bulk freighters continued their voyages. The nations most dependent upon Gulf energy—China, India, Japan, and South Korea, which together account for approximately two-thirds of the oil and gas shipped through the Strait—continued receiving shipments through one of the world's busiest maritime corridors.

Oil markets offered another reality check. Had approximately twenty million barrels of oil per day genuinely disappeared from world markets for any sustained period, the economic consequences would have been catastrophic. Energy prices would have reflected a profound physical shortage. With 20% of the world's oil supply knocked out for weeks and months, oil prices would skyrocket. Instead, prices reacted sharply to uncertainty as cries of war were heard but then quickly returned toward previous levels as markets reassessed the underlying supply conditions.

Today's market price of oil is about the same as it was before February 28th, when President Trump announced the start of military action against Iran. Why? Because at no time since February 28 has there been any meaningful interruption of maritime traffic through the Strait.

The Strait of Hormuz therefore has become something far more significant than a maritime passage. It has become a real-world test of whether observable evidence still matters in public discourse. For months, citizens were not required to rely upon rumor, anonymous sources, or official pronouncements. They could examine the evidence for themselves. Commercial shipping could be observed. Market reactions could be observed. The underlying facts have remained publicly available to anyone willing to look.

Too often today, however, spectacle overtakes evidence. Dramatic announcements spread around the world before independent verification has begun. Repetition becomes mistaken for proof. Emotion replaces observation. The louder the narrative becomes, the less frequently people ask the most important question: *What does the observable evidence actually show?*

Governments possess extraordinary powers. Intelligence agencies possess extraordinary capabilities. Modern media possess extraordinary reach. None of those institutions should ever be immune from examination by the citizens they exist to serve.

History reminds us that official narratives deserve scrutiny because governments, like every human institution, are capable of error, exaggeration, political calculation, institutional self-interest—and even profound fraud, corruption, and racketeering. Democracies remain healthy only when citizens retain both the freedom and the courage to examine official claims critically.

The obligation of a free citizen is neither blind acceptance nor automatic rejection. It is disciplined skepticism grounded in evidence. When reality can be observed independently, citizens need not rely exclusively upon official interpretation. They can investigate. They can compare. They can reach their own conclusions. Those habits form the foundation of scientific inquiry, responsible journalism, and constitutional self-government.

Free people possess both the right and the responsibility to question, to verify, and—where the evidence warrants—to reject claims unsupported by the facts.

Increasingly, critics argue that the greatest danger facing America is not some foreign menace, but the manipulation of public narratives by those entrusted with informing and governing the people.

And so, the message to the perpetrators of the scam of Hormuz and other blatantly fabricated narrative spectacles is no longer ambiguous. The gap between observable reality and official narrative has become too large and too prolonged to ignore.

For months, the American people were told to believe one thing while publicly available evidence capable of independent verification overwhelmingly has shown the very opposite to be the truth – i.e., wide-open, uninterrupted, and unobstructed traffic continuously every day of March, April, May, June, and July through today. In these last four and one-half months, almost 2.5 billion barrels have passed through the Strait. No sustained blockade, shutdown, suspension, tolling, or attacks on ships. Nothing but Narrative Fonder.

Many have repeated the oft-quoted remark attributed to intelligence chief William Casey 45 years ago, that success would come "when everything the American people believe is false." Whether or not those exact words were ever spoken is ultimately beside the point. The warning captures a genuine concern: a society cannot remain free if citizens surrender independent judgment to institutions that expect belief without verification.

Where government announcements, intelligence briefings, and a remarkably uniform media narrative speak with one voice, a prudent citizen does not suspend judgment. A prudent citizen asks for the evidence. He compares the claim with observable reality. He distinguishes assertion from proof. That is not cynicism. It is constitutional citizenship.

Given the profound pattern of deception connected with Strait of Hormuz announcements, from this point forward, every consequential public claim—whether concerning Iran or any other matter of public importance—deserves rigorous evidentiary examination before it earns public confidence.

America has never depended upon passive acceptance. It has depended upon free men and women willing to examine evidence, to reason independently, and to insist that public power remain accountable to law and to truth.

That resolve has not disappeared. It is awakening.

For thousands of years, military strategists have understood that deception can be a legitimate instrument of war when directed against an adversary. From ancient treatises such as *The Art of War* onward, deception has been regarded as a means of confusing an enemy and gaining tactical advantage on the battlefield.

A constitutional republic is fundamentally different.

The government of a free nation does not stand in an adversarial relationship to its own people. It exists only by their consent and exercises powers held in trust for their benefit. *Deception that may be justified against a foreign adversary must never become the governing principle of communication between a government and its own citizens.* When official narratives become wildly and blatantly detached from observable reality and are repeated over extended time, the casualty is not merely public confidence—it is the foundation of self-government itself.

And so, to the perpetrators and collaborators of great deceptions directed against the citizenry, the message is quite simple.

We are onto your Fondle of Hormuz. America is not going down this way.

We are no longer passive consumers of official narratives. We will compare every significant public claim—on every topic of importance—against the available evidence and reserve judgment until the facts warrant belief.

Armed with the Constitution, with evidentiary discipline, with reason, and with unwavering fidelity to the rule of law, we will defend our fundamental rights and liberties against every attempt to diminish or defeat them through fear, deception, and the manipulation of public opinion.

Ready.

We trust you understand.

James Hungelmann

The White Room LLC