
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4003

State of Washington **62nd Legislature** **2011 Regular Session**

By Representatives Short, Shea, Kretz, Taylor, Crouse, McCune, Schmick, Kristiansen, Harris, and Condotta

Read first time 01/13/11. Referred to Committee on Environment.

1 TO THE HONORABLE CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF
2 WASHINGTON:

3 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
4 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
5 represent and petition as follows:

6 WHEREAS, There has been no credible economic analysis of the costs
7 associated with carbon reduction mandates and the consequential effect
8 of the increasing costs of doing business in the State of Washington;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Forcing business, industry, and food producers to reduce
11 carbon emissions through government mandates and cap and trade policies
12 under consideration by the western climate initiative will increase the
13 cost of doing business, push companies to do business with other states
14 or nations, and increase consumer costs for electricity, fuel, and
15 food; and

16 WHEREAS, The congressional budget office warns that the cost of cap
17 and trade policies will be borne by consumers and will place a
18 disproportionately high burden on poorer families; and

19 WHEREAS, Washington State has an estimated three-tenths of one
20 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions; so simply reducing carbon

1 emissions in the State will have no significant impact on international
2 carbon reduction, especially while countries like China, Russia,
3 Mexico, and India emit an ever-increasing amount of carbon into the
4 atmosphere; and

5 WHEREAS, Washington's per capita emissions have decreased seven
6 percent from 1990 to 2007 and are two-thirds the amount of the rest of
7 the country without western climate initiative policies; and

8 WHEREAS, A tremendous amount of economic generation and stability
9 would be sacrificed for a reduction in carbon emissions that would have
10 no appreciable impact on global concentrations of carbon dioxide; and

11 WHEREAS, No state or nation has enhanced economic opportunities for
12 its citizens or increased gross domestic product through cap and trade
13 or other carbon reduction policies; and

14 WHEREAS, Europe's cap and trade system has been undermined by
15 political favoritism, accounting tricks, and has failed to achieve even
16 a fraction of its carbon reduction targets; and

17 WHEREAS, There is potential for government abuse to use proceeds
18 from such programs not for carbon reductions programs or to offset the
19 higher costs on citizens from the policies but to supplement general
20 fund deficits as done by some states currently participating in the
21 regional greenhouse gas initiative;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
23 governor withdraw Washington State from the western climate initiative.

24 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
25 transmitted to the Honorable Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the
26 State of Washington.

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