
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4009

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Fitzgibbon, McBride, Peterson, Fey, Ryu, S. Hunt, and Pollet

Read first time 02/11/15. Referred to Committee on Environment.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE
5 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED
6 STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF
7 STATE, AND THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL
8 PROTECTION AGENCY:

9 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
10 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,
11 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

12 WHEREAS, Global climate change is a real and urgent problem
13 caused by human activities; and

14 WHEREAS, The State of Washington and other states have been and
15 will continue to be negatively impacted by the effects of climate
16 change, including reduced winter snowpack, drought, more frequent
17 extreme weather events, increased frequencies of forest fires and
18 insect infestations, and acidifying oceans that harm shellfish and
19 otherwise disrupt marine ecosystem viability; and

20 WHEREAS, While actions by individuals, local governments,
21 environmentally minded businesses, states, and other disparate
22 efforts are necessary and important, climate change is nevertheless

1 fundamentally a problem of global scope and is most effectively
2 addressed on an international and global scale; and

3 WHEREAS, Washington State has already built upon its comparably
4 clean electricity portfolio by enacting a variety of narrowly focused
5 policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions by shifting to cleaner
6 fuel and energy sources and increasing energy-use efficiency; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States has taken certain nationwide actions
8 that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as increasing the
9 national fuel efficiency standards for vehicles and requiring all
10 states to develop plans under the Clean Air Act to achieve measurable
11 greenhouse gas emission reductions; and

12 WHEREAS, The United States recently made significant progress
13 towards combating climate change through an accord with China that
14 commits the two nations responsible for the greatest volumes of
15 greenhouse gas emissions to measurable reductions of their greenhouse
16 gas emissions well into the future; and

17 WHEREAS, In spite of the progress made by these recent actions,
18 the State of Washington and the nation will continue to be
19 increasingly impacted by climate change without additional and
20 significant nationwide and globally coordinated efforts to reduce
21 global greenhouse gas emissions; and

22 WHEREAS, Taking action to make progress against global climate
23 change is an opportunity for the United States to continue our long
24 history of global leadership and encouraging innovation by providing
25 a strong example for other nations to follow and join;

26 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
27 United States take unified national action to address global climate
28 change by committing to participating in strong international or
29 global commitments to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

30 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
31 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
32 States, the Secretary of the United States department of Energy, the
33 Secretary of the United States department of the Interior, the United
34 States Secretary of State, the Administrator of the United States
35 Environmental Protection Agency, the President of the United States
36 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member
37 of Congress from the State of Washington.

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