
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4028

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Representatives Chase, Upthegrove, Rolfes, Kenney, Lias, Sells, Simpson, Ormsby, Nelson, Dunshee, Hasegawa, Finn, Kirby, Roberts, Kagi, Conway, Williams, Blake, Pedersen, Hunt, Orwall, Maxwell, Jacks, Moeller, Morrell, White, Pettigrew, Miloscia, McCoy, and Appleton

Read first time 01/26/10. Referred to Committee on Ecology & Parks.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

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

8 WHEREAS, The United States currently spends approximately one
9 billion dollars a day to import oil, and by 2030, United States
10 Department of Energy estimates that without comprehensive clean energy
11 legislation the country's reliance on foreign oil could cost eight and
12 one-half trillion dollars; and

13 WHEREAS, Under the nation's current energy policy, American wealth
14 is being transferred to nations that are rich with oil, and many of
15 those nations are politically unstable or unfriendly to the United
16 States; and

17 WHEREAS, High oil prices reduce the purchasing power of American
18 consumers, spur inflation, and boost the prices of basic goods and
19 services; and

1 WHEREAS, Transportation is the second largest contributor to total
2 United States greenhouse gas emissions and responsible for about one-
3 third of United States carbon dioxide emissions from the combustion of
4 fossil fuels; and

5 WHEREAS, The effects of climate change include the increase of
6 political and social instability in poorer regions of the world, thus
7 presenting potential security challenges for the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, Climate change poses a serious threat to the United States
9 economy, public health, and environment, including variability of
10 precipitation, degradation of air quality, damage to infrastructure,
11 and loss of plant and animal species; and

12 WHEREAS, Climate change will directly affect industries including
13 tourism, skiing, fishing, agriculture, and forestry and will
14 disproportionately affect communities with limited resources to adapt
15 and cope; and

16 WHEREAS, Climate changes are already underway in the United States,
17 are projected to grow, and include increases in heavy downpours, rising
18 temperature and sea level, rapidly retreating glaciers, thawing
19 permafrost, lengthening growing seasons, lengthening ice-free seasons
20 in the ocean and on lakes and rivers, earlier snowmelt, and alterations
21 in river flow; and

22 WHEREAS, Although agriculture is considered one of the sectors most
23 adaptable to changes in climate, increased heat, pests, water stress,
24 diseases, and weather extremes will pose adaptation challenges for crop
25 and livestock production; and

26 WHEREAS, Climate change will create health impacts related to heat
27 stress, waterborne diseases, poor air quality, extreme weather events,
28 and diseases transmitted by insects and rodents; and

29 WHEREAS, Clean energy jobs are growing at a rate two hundred fifty
30 percent faster than the rest of the economy; and

31 WHEREAS, The United States Energy Information Administration
32 projects clean energy job growth of up to two million new jobs
33 resulting from comprehensive clean energy legislation; and

34 WHEREAS, There is significant global competition for clean energy
35 development that could weaken the United States economy and threaten
36 American innovation, without comprehensive clean energy legislation;
37 and

1 WHEREAS, Thousands of businesses have joined together calling for
2 comprehensive federal clean energy legislation, including among others
3 members of the United States Climate Action Group and the Clean Economy
4 Network; and

5 WHEREAS, Over the past two decades, in the absence of comprehensive
6 federal clean energy legislation, the states have been the true
7 "laboratories of democracy" by advancing clean energy policies; and

8 WHEREAS, Washington State has adopted renewable energy standards
9 and goals that require a significant percentage of the state's
10 electricity to be generated from nonfossil-fuel renewable energy
11 sources, which sources have led to significant job growth in the clean
12 energy sector of the national economy; and

13 WHEREAS, State leadership has resulted in job growth and has
14 reduced reliance on imported energy sources, thus resulting in
15 opportunities for renewed economic development; and

16 WHEREAS, A national statutory framework for clean energy will
17 provide a predictable regulatory framework that will spur innovation
18 and discovery in the clean energy sector; and

19 WHEREAS, Without Congressional action, the Environmental Protection
20 Agency has announced its intention to regulate greenhouse gas emissions
21 through administrative rules rather than through legislation; and

22 WHEREAS, The United States House of Representatives passed the
23 American Clean Energy and Security Act on June 26, 2009, on a
24 bipartisan vote, and bipartisan members of the United States Senate are
25 currently considering and drafting the Clean Energy Jobs and American
26 Power Act; and

27 WHEREAS, The United States Congress has the historic opportunity to
28 enact comprehensive clean energy jobs and climate legislation that will
29 strengthen our national security, grow clean energy jobs, and reduce
30 pollution;

31 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United
32 States Congress passes comprehensive clean energy jobs and climate
33 legislation;

34 BE IT RESOLVED, That such national legislation create a unified
35 framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions;

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That such national legislation protect low
37 and moderate-income Americans from increased energy costs, and invest
38 substantially in energy efficiency;

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That such national legislation support
2 alternative sources of energy;

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That such national legislation acknowledge
4 the carbon intensive nature of the United States economy and include
5 emissions offsets that protect energy consumers.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
7 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
8 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
9 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
10 Washington.

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