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**SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8008**

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**State of Washington 67th Legislature 2022 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Das, Lovelett, Lovick, Nobles, Salomon, and Stanford

TO THE HONORABLE JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

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

WHEREAS, The scientific consensus is clear that human activities are primarily responsible for accelerating global climate change, and that the climate crisis now represents one of the preeminent threats to global civilization; and

WHEREAS, The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported in 2018 that we must achieve net zero in greenhouse gas emissions by the middle of this century in order to have a reasonable chance of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius; and

WHEREAS, Changes in Washington's climate are already being felt, with examples of heat dome, wildfire, drought, sea level rise, flooding, changes in the hydro power system, and impacts on salmon including treaty rights and obligations; and

WHEREAS, Our entire society will be impacted by the health and safety risks of fossil fuel expansion, particularly those who also face socioeconomic and health inequities, including low-income families, those experiencing homelessness, people of color and indigenous people, youth, seniors, those experiencing mental and physical disabilities, and people with health conditions; and

WHEREAS, Our youth and future generations have the most to lose from a lack of immediate action to stop fossil fuel expansion as they face major and lifelong health, ecological, social, and economic impacts from prolonged and cumulative effects of climate change, including food and water shortages, infectious diseases, and natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, The Paris Climate Agreement is silent on coal, oil, and gas, an omission with respect to the supply and production of fossil fuels (the most significant source of climate altering pollution) that needs to be collectively addressed by other means; and

WHEREAS, Global governments and the fossil fuel industry are currently planning to produce about 120 percent more emissions by 2030 than what is needed to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and avert catastrophic climate disruption, and such plans risk undoing the work of Washington State to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, The construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure and expanded reliance on fossil fuels exposes communities to untenable risks to public health and safety at the local and global levels; and

WHEREAS, The economic opportunities presented by a clean energy transition far outweigh the opportunities presented by an economy supported by expanding fossil fuel use and extraction; and

WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature is committed to a just energy transition and to ambitious investments in the green infrastructure and industries that will create jobs and rapidly decarbonize our economy; and

WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature recognizes that it is the urgent responsibility and moral obligation of wealthy fossil fuel producers to lead in putting an end to fossil fuel development and to manage the decline of existing production; and

WHEREAS, In 2019, the Washington State Legislature passed Senate Bill No. 5145 which prohibits the use of hydraulic fracturing in oil and gas exploration within Washington; and

WHEREAS, In 2020, the Washington State Legislature passed House Bill No. 2311, committing to science-based targets for greenhouse gas emissions, requiring incremental progress toward net zero emissions by 2050; and

WHEREAS, In 2021, the Washington State Legislature passed the Climate Commitment Act which creates a market mechanism to cap emissions of climate pollution, reduce emissions steadily over time to achieve our science-based targets, and invest revenue in solutions; and

WHEREAS, In 2021, the Washington State Legislature passed the HEAL Act, Senate Bill No. 5141, to reduce environmental and health disparities in Washington, including disparities caused by climate change; and

WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature supports the new global initiative calling for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty that would end new fossil fuel exploration and expansion, phase out existing production in line with the global commitment to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and accelerate equitable transition plans; and

WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature affirms its ongoing commitment to the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and the greenhouse gas reduction targets as called for by the intergovernmental panel on climate change, and pledges to meet its proportionate greenhouse gas reductions under the Paris Climate Agreement and House Bill No. 2311;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Legislature urge the United States Government to begin good faith negotiations to enter into a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.