
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8008

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senators Das and Lovelett

1 TO THE HONORABLE JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
2 STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE
3 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF
4 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 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,
7 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

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

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

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

20 WHEREAS, Our entire society will be impacted by the health and
21 safety risks of fossil fuel expansion, particularly those who also
22 face socioeconomic and health inequities, including low-income
23 families, those experiencing homelessness, people of color and

1 indigenous people, youth, seniors, those experiencing mental and
2 physical disabilities, and people with health conditions; and

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

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

13 WHEREAS, Global governments and the fossil fuel industry are
14 currently planning to produce about 120 percent more emissions by
15 2030 than what is needed to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and
16 avert catastrophic climate disruption, and such plans risk undoing
17 the work of Washington State to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

39 WHEREAS, In 2021, the Washington State Legislature passed the
40 Climate Commitment Act which creates a market mechanism to cap

1 emissions of climate pollution, reduce emissions steadily over time
2 to achieve our science-based targets, and invest revenue in
3 solutions; and

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

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

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

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

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

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