

Resolution: Washington Carbon Tax

Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle

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Whereas carbon emissions are a critical accelerant of the climate crisis, which threatens current and future generations in Washington state and around the world;

Whereas governments worldwide recognized in the 2009 Copenhagen Accord that warming must be contained to 2°C (3.6°F);

Whereas warming can only be contained in this way if humans limit carbon in the atmosphere to 565 gigatons;

Whereas other nations have successfully reduced carbon emissions with a carbon tax, which accounts for “externality costs” of burning fossil fuels;

Whereas a barebones carbon tax is inherently regressive, since transportation and household goods are energy-intensive;

Whereas the state of Washington has so far failed to make good on its promises with respect to reducing greenhouse gas emissions;

Resolved, that the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle and its Climate Change Task Force:

1. believe a carbon tax is a responsible step toward containing carbon emissions and protecting our planet’s and society’s future;
2. support the efforts of Governor Jay Inslee and Senator Kevin Ranker to implement a state carbon tax in the 2018 legislative session;
3. urge Washington’s Democratic legislators to unify forces and pass a carbon tax bill this session, so long as a portion of funds raised are returned to the public in a way that substantially counterbalances the regressive nature of a carbon tax; and
4. urge all Washington legislators to support a carbon tax this session, thereby taking an important step toward meeting the state’s pledges to reduce global warming.

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