
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4003

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representatives Street, Mena, Reeves, Thai, Macri, Reed, Pollet, Slatter, Kloba, Farivar, Cortes, Ramel, Santos, Doglio, Berry, Duerr, Taylor, and Peterson

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, AND TO
5 THE HONORABLE JAY INSLEE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, AND TO
6 THE HONORABLE ANTONIO GUTERRES, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED
7 NATIONS, AND TO THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN
8 RIGHTS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 WHEREAS, Global governments and the fossil fuel industry are
18 currently planning to produce about 120 percent more emissions by
19 2030 than what is needed to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and
20 avert catastrophic climate disruption, and such plans risk undoing
21 the work of Washington State to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

22 WHEREAS, The historic outcome of the 2023 United Nations Climate
23 Change Conference, COP28, calls for transitioning away from fossil
24 fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly, and equitable manner,
25 accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve net
26 zero by 2050 in keeping with the science; and

27 WHEREAS, Washington State, as a core member of the Beyond Oil and
28 Gas Alliance, comprised of governments such as Tuvalu, Vanuatu,
29 California, and Colombia, that have endorsed the call for a Fossil
30 Fuel Nonproliferation Treaty, has committed to end new concessions,
31 licensing, or leasing rounds for oil and gas production and
32 exploration and to set a Paris-aligned date for ending oil and gas
33 production and exploration; and

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

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

1 WHEREAS, The Fossil Fuel Nonproliferation Treaty has been
2 formally called for by 13 nation-states, the European Parliament, the
3 Vatican, and nearly 100 cities and subnational governments globally,
4 including the Washington city of Yakima, as well as the Hawaii and
5 California State Legislatures; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature affirms its ongoing
37 commitment to the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and the
38 greenhouse gas reduction targets as called for by the
39 intergovernmental panel on climate change, and pledges to meet its

1 proportionate greenhouse gas reductions under the Paris Climate
2 Agreement and chapter 70A.45 RCW;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
4 Legislature urges the United States government to join the global
5 community in formally developing a Fossil Fuel Nonproliferation
6 Treaty as an international mechanism to manage a global transition
7 away from coal, oil, and gas; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature formally endorses
9 the call for a Fossil Fuel Nonproliferation Treaty; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Washington agrees with the principle
11 of the nonproliferation of fossil fuels and the need to end the
12 expansion of new coal, oil, and gas production; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Washington affirms the need for a
14 plan to phase out existing fossil fuel production that prioritizes
15 the most impacted workers and local government services with short-
16 term and long-term investments that include enforceable labor
17 standards, such as prevailing wages, apprenticeship opportunities,
18 and project labor agreements, to protect workers and communities; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be
20 immediately transmitted to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.,
21 President of the United States, the Honorable Jay Inslee, Governor of
22 the State of Washington, the Honorable Antonio Guterres, Secretary-
23 General of the United Nations, the United Nations High Commissioner
24 for Human Rights, the President of the United States Senate, the
25 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress
26 from the State of Washington.

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