

Resolution to Urge Creation of a Clean Energy Task Force

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3 **WHEREAS** customers of manufacturers are becoming more interested in assessment of
4 the impact on carbon emissions of manufactured products across the entire product life
5 cycle, and large retailers are requesting more information from their suppliers about
6 product-level environmental impacts, including carbon footprints;

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8 **WHEREAS** Washington's network of hydroelectric power plants is the largest in the
9 nation and contributes to combined retail and industrial electricity prices across all
10 sectors that are among the lowest in the nation;

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12 **WHEREAS** about 75 percent of the state's electric power comes from energy resources
13 including hydropower, solar, and wind generation which generate near-zero carbon
14 emissions at the source;

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16 **WHEREAS** Washington State provides a number of incentives for manufacturers,
17 including business and occupation tax rate reductions, credits, exemptions, and
18 deductions; sales and use tax exemption sand deferrals; property tax exemptions; and
19 low-interest, tax-free industrial revenue bonds administered by the Washington
20 Economic Development Finance Authority;

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22 **WHEREAS** the U. S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates
23 Washington's manufacturing employment at 289,800 employees, or about 8.6% of total
24 employment in November 2015;

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26 **WHEREAS** Washington State could assist manufacturers in staying competitive by
27 assisting them in making their manufacturing processes less carbon-intensive, and by
28 creating an attractive business climate for low-carbon manufacturing; and

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30 **WHEREAS** SB 6545, creating a clean energy task force to explore these issues on behalf
31 of the people of Washington State, was reintroduced into the State Senate in 2016;

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33 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Legislature establish a task
34 force to make recommendations to the Legislature for modernization or enhancements
35 to the state's energy, environmental, regulatory, and tax policies to enhance the health
36 and competitiveness of Washington's manufacturing sector following SB 6545.

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39 Submitted by the Benton County Convention.

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41 The Platform Committee recommended that this resolution be passed at their June 17,
42 2016 meeting.

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The 2016 Washington State Democratic Convention passed this resolution on June 18,
2016.