

SUPPORT FOR PASSING CARBON PRICING LEGISLATION DURING THE 2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

1 **WHEREAS** the Washington State Democrats Platform calls for us to unite, as citizens of
2 our planet, to “proactively address climate change as a crisis,” and specifically urges the
3 adoption of “a carbon tax at the source to reduce greenhouse gases by providing
4 economic motivation for reduced fossil fuel use”;

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6 **WHEREAS** 195 nations signed the Paris Agreement, making a commitment to keeping
7 global average temperature rise to a maximum of two degrees Celsius above pre-
8 industrial levels;

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10 **WHEREAS** in order to do our part to reach global climate stabilization levels by 2050
11 the State of Washington adopted goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 1990
12 levels by 2020, twenty-five percent below 1990 levels by 2035 and fifty percent below
13 1990 levels by 2050 as codified in RCW 70.235;

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15 **WHEREAS** we are not currently on track to meet these codified standards and the best
16 available science tells us that the standards don’t go far enough and more aggressive
17 reductions are needed to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement;

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19 **WHEREAS** without legislation that puts a sufficient price on carbon, adapting to
20 climate change and mitigating its impacts in the future are likely to impose
21 unprecedented and catastrophic costs on the budgets of Washington State agencies and
22 its cities and counties, creating a tax burden that will be felt by all Washingtonians;

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24 **WHEREAS** there have been three carbon pricing bills introduced in the Senate for the
25 current legislative session including SB 6203 by Governor Inslee which has sixteen co-
26 sponsors; and

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28 **WHEREAS** each of the bills as proposed would result in revenue being generated for
29 the creation of new carbon reduction and impact mitigation funds, including funds for
30 infrastructure and other carbon reduction projects as well as providing assistance for
31 low-income populations, workers and those disproportionately impacted by climate
32 change;

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34 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Central
35 Committee calls on the Washington State legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign,

the carbon pricing legislation in the 2018 legislative session that 1) creates a “carbon pollution tax” of at least \$20/metric ton beginning on July 1, 2019, increasing each year with no cap, with the cost linked to inflation, and reaching at least \$30/metric ton by 2024; and 2) allocates at least 15% of revenue generated to a “carbon price impact assistance fund” to lessen the impacts felt by low-income households, vulnerable populations, and workers, including supporting a just transition to a renewable energy economy; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be transmitted to all Democratic Washington State Legislators and to Governor Inslee.

Submitted by the Environment and Climate Caucus to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee for consideration at its January 28, 2018 meeting in Bellingham. (Date Submitted 1/26/18)

The Resolutions Committee reviewed the resolution and recommend that it be passed.

The Washington State Democratic Central Committee approved this resolution on 1/28/18.