

## **Towards A Just Transition to Renewable Energy to Combat Climate Change While Creating New Clean Jobs**

**WHEREAS** the overwhelming scientific consensus is that climate warming trends over the past century are due to human activities, and most of the world's leading scientific organizations have issued public statements endorsing this position;

**WHEREAS** we are already experiencing the warming of the planet at a dangerously rapid rate, primarily as a result of our reliance on carbon-based fossil fuels, deforestation and other human activities that have caused a dramatic increase in the global level of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases;

**WHEREAS** according to the Congress of South African Trade Unions, there were already, in 2011, 150 million climate refugees around the world, with more certain to follow because "it is the working class, the poor and developing countries that will be most adversely affected by climate change";

**WHEREAS** unless we curb the emissions that cause climate change, average temperatures in the United States could be at least 3 to 9 degrees Fahrenheit higher by 2100, with potential consequences including sea-level rise of at least 3 to 6 feet, more powerful hurricanes, more powerful tornadoes, prolonged drought, larger and more frequent wildfires, much more severe winter storms in some areas, reduction to agricultural productivity with resulting food shortages and famine, spread of disease, and plant and animal extinctions that threaten to eliminate up to half of all living species on earth;

**WHEREAS** scientists say that there may still be time to prevent the most catastrophic levels of global warming – if we eliminate the burning of fossil fuels worldwide within the next few years, which is perfectly feasible with existing technology;

**WHEREAS** emergency measures must be taken to prevent catastrophic increases in global warming that will trigger irreversible changes to our biosphere;

**WHEREAS** at the present rate of carbon emission and consequent global warming, we could reach that tipping point by 2050 or sooner;

**WHEREAS** the global movement for climate justice is demanding urgent action by our governments, including an encyclical by Pope Francis that lays out the moral imperative for transforming our economy and social practices;

43 **WHEREAS** we will solve the climate crisis only when we put ourselves at the  
44 center of the climate justice movement;

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46 **WHEREAS** there is no good reason why the richest nation in the world cannot  
47 fund protection for its workers as we move to minimize reliance on fossil fuels;  
48 millions of good jobs can be created by increasing energy efficiency, reliance on  
49 renewable energy, and the rebuilding of our infrastructure;

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51 **WHEREAS** there are several bills before Congress to tax carbon pollution, such  
52 as the Climate Protection and Justice Act, which would use the funds to provide  
53 rebates to households making less than \$100,000 per year; and

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55 **WHEREAS** the Clean Energy Just Transition Act is an example of legislation that  
56 would protect workers whose jobs were lost because of the transition away from  
57 fossil fuels;

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59 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats support  
60 a just transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy; and

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62 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State  
63 Democrats will support legislation, administrative rules, or an initiative that  
64 enables a just transition for workers and communities directly affected by the  
65 transition to a renewable energy economy, providing income, benefit, wage  
66 insurance and retraining support for workers in the fossil fuel industries, and  
67 creates quality jobs in infrastructure, energy and efficiency, and the clean energy  
68 economy.

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70 Submitted by the Skagit County Democrats.

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72 The Platform Committee recommended that this resolution be passed at their  
73 May 20, 2018 meeting.

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75 The 2018 Washington State Democratic Convention passed this resolution on  
76 June 16, 2018.