

1                   **Request that the Washington State Department of**  
2                   **Transportation to use the Social Cost of Carbon When**  
3                   **Determining the Cost of Transportation Projects**

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5   **WHEREAS** the primary source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Washington State  
6 comes from vehicles powered by fossil fuels;

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8   **WHEREAS** an additional 1.8 million people are expected to move to Washington State by  
9 2050 and they will need transportation mobility,

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11   **WHEREAS** The growing Washington State economy will be required to move larger and  
12 larger quantities of goods and services in future years,

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14   **WHEREAS** the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is required to  
15 determine greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions produced for each project undertaken, yet  
16 this value is not required to be considered when deciding whether to go ahead with such  
17 projects,

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19   **WHEREAS** the social cost of carbon (SCC) is a measurement in dollars of the long-term  
20 damage done by a ton of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions in a given year, which is  
21 currently about \$42/metric ton and expected to increase to \$60/metric ton by 2040, and  
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23   **WHEREAS** although the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC)  
24 requires private utility companies to consider the SCC in pricing their projects, WSDOT is  
25 currently not subject to any such requirement,

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27   **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the WSDCC calls upon Washington State's  
28 legislature to direct WSDOT to include the SCC impacts when designing and evaluating  
29 the life-cycle costs of all state projects related to transportation and transportation  
30 infrastructure, including roads, rail, maritime, and multi-modal, and

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32   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that WSDOT should also be directed by the legislature to  
33 consider the SCC and the long-term carbon-pollution impacts on Washington residents in  
34 the design and award of bids for transportation projects.

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36       Submitted by the WSDCC Environmental Caucus to the WSDCC for consideration at its  
37       September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting in Yakima (Date Submitted: September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019)

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39       The Resolutions Committee reviewed and amended this resolution and recommended it be  
40       passed.