

9/16/2024

RESOLUTION NO. M-_____

A RESOLUTION expressing a collective position of the Vancouver City Council in opposition to Washington State Initiative No. 2117 which concerns carbon tax credit trading, and which, if passed, would prohibit state agencies from imposing any type of carbon tax credit trading, and repeal legislation establishing a cap and invest program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver is committed to ensuring a livable future for its residents and visitors by reducing our contributions to climate change, with a goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2040; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver is also committed to advancing equity, and the City recognizes that ‘climate justice’ is interconnected with racial justice – with many historically marginalized community members experiencing disproportionate impacts of climate change based on the physical attributes of the neighborhoods in which they live; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver is focused on protecting our community from the impacts of climate change, including unnaturally poor air quality, extreme weather, wildfires, and other threats to public health and our ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, legal precedent has recognized that there is “little basis for denying that climate change is occurring at an increasingly rapid pace” and that “[c]opious expert evidence establishes that this unprecedented rise stems from fossil fuel combustion and will wreak havoc on the Earth's climate if unchecked.” *Juliana v. United States*, 947 F.3d 1159, 1166 (9th Cir. 2020); and

WHEREAS, the factors that contribute to climate change extend far beyond Vancouver's boundaries and statewide laws and policies are needed to support, augment, and align with, the goals and objectives of the City of Vancouver's Climate Action Framework; and

WHEREAS, one such statewide policy is Washington State's Climate Commitment Act – a landmark 'cap-and-invest' program funded by Washington's largest carbon emitting sources which is designed to help Washington meet its goal of reducing statewide carbon emissions by 95% by 2050; and

WHEREAS, Washington State's 2023-2025 budgets have appropriated \$3.2 billion in Climate Commitment Act auction revenues to fund numerous programs and projects throughout the state including a \$1.5 billion investment in clean transportation, \$366 million in climate mitigation, and \$345 million investment in environmental justice; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver's efforts to ensure a livable future have been supported by substantial state grant awards including over \$4.85 million in funds from the Climate Commitment Act; and

WHEREAS, Washington State Initiative No. 2117, if passed, would repeal Washington's Climate Commitment Act and, in this event, terminate the revenue stream upon which the awards referenced above have been funded; Washington State's spending authority of \$1.7 billion in Climate Commitment Act revenues for FY 2025 would no longer exist – resulting in a significant detrimental impact on the overall budget of the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS, Washington State Initiative No. 2117, if passed, will jeopardize the ability of the City of Vancouver and community based organizations (CBOs) to receive future Climate

Commitment Act funds and interrupt important local work that could otherwise be carried out using these funds; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2024, following notice and publication in accordance with Washington law, the City of Vancouver held a public hearing and allowed approximately equal amounts of time for those wishing to speak in favor of, and opposition to, the proposed ballot initiative.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VANCOUVER:

Section 1. The City Council hereby expresses a collective position in opposition to Washington State Initiative No. 2117 because, if passed, this initiative (a) stands to jeopardize the City of Vancouver's ability to receive future Climate Commitment Act funds and would likely interrupt important local work that could otherwise be carried out using these funds, (b) would repeal a progressive statewide funding system that attributes financial responsibility for climate change to Washington's largest emitting sources, and (c) stands to create a statewide funding gap that the City anticipates will otherwise be filled through regressive funding mechanisms.

ADOPTED at a Regular Meeting of the Vancouver City Council this 16th day of September, 2024.

Anne McEnery-Ogle, Mayor

Attest:

Natasha Ramras, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Jonathan Young, City Attorney