

Resolution to Create an Environment and Climate Caucus of the Washington State Democratic Party

WHEREAS the Democratic Party National Platform states “Climate change is an urgent threat and a defining challenge of our time”, and

WHEREAS the Washington State Democratic Party Platform calls for “Immediate aggressive action to minimize climate change, as global climate change is the foremost threat to survival of Earth as we know it”, and

WHEREAS the environment is under renewed threat as a result of recent actions by the current administration, and

WHEREAS existing strategies to combat climate change have to date been insufficient to meet the goals set forth in the Paris Agreement, and

WHEREAS According to the Washington State Department of Ecology, Agriculture is the key economic driver and employer in most regions of Washington State and warmer temperatures, higher carbon dioxide levels, and more frequent and severe floods and droughts could significantly impact crop yields for Washington State farmers, and

WHEREAS climate disruption increases the likelihood of forest fires, drought and insect vectors spreading disease to our forests and potentially to humans, and

WHEREAS transitioning to an economy based on sustainable renewable energy and energy efficiency will bring new jobs in the transportation, building, and energy sectors, and

WHEREAS important climate- and environment-related bills are currently before the Washington State Legislature, including two separate carbon tax proposals, a solar extension tax credit bill, bills to preserve farmland, and a bill to better protect our waters from fossil fuel transportation, and

WHEREAS 47% of respondents (about 90 people) to a survey about the environment at the state party meeting on January 28th 2017 indicated interest in the formation of an Environment and Climate Caucus.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 33rd LD calls for an Environment and Climate Caucus to be created within the State Democratic Organization.

The Executive Board is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Washington State Party Central committee and urge them to endorse it.