



CITY OF
MERCER ISLAND



King County



CITY OF
ISSAQUAH
WASHINGTON



City of Seattle



December 5, 2013

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Governor of Washington
Office of the Governor
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

The Honorable Doug Ericksen
Washington State Senate
414 Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98504-0442

The Honorable Kevin Ranker
Washington State Senate
215 John A. Cherberg Building
Olympia, WA 98504-0440

The Honorable Joe Fitzgibbon
Washington State House of Representatives
305 John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

The Honorable Shelly Short
Washington State House of Representatives
436 John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Governor Inslee, Senator Ericksen, Senator Ranker, Representative Fitzgibbon and Representative Short:

As local elected officials in King County we are writing to express our strong support for the efforts of the Washington State Climate Legislative and Executive Workgroup (CLEW) to ensure the state achieves its adopted greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction requirements. We appreciate the effort by the CLEW to solicit public input on its work to prioritize state actions that will achieve these GHG emissions reductions.

We are already experiencing the impacts of climate change on public safety, the environment, and our natural resource-based economies like forestry, agriculture, and fishing. Our jurisdictions have made ambitious commitments to reduce GHG emissions and are taking significant actions to achieve them, but only through broader state and federal action can we hope to achieve the magnitude of reductions in GHG emissions committed to at the state and local level.

As you develop recommendations to the legislature, we urge you to embrace the following:

- **Be bold:** We are not on track to meet state GHG emissions limits and action now is essential to the future of our environment, public health and safety, and the vitality of our State's economy. We urge you to identify measures that over time will inspire and support conversion from a carbon based economy to a renewable energy economy. Failure to take action now will make future actions more difficult, costly, and disruptive.
- **Adopt a market-based approach to reducing GHG pollution:** Market-based approaches – whether a cap-and-trade program as in California or a carbon tax as in British Columbia – should be at the heart of the state's package of actions.
- **Ease the transition:** While the shift to a market-based approach is essential, the state should include provisions to ensure equitable application across business sectors, reduce impacts to low income families and individuals, and ease the transition through provisions like lower initial rates and offsetting tax reductions and credits. British Columbia's carbon tax principles provide examples of transition strategies.
- **Be comprehensive in addressing sources and solutions:** Cars and buildings are key sources of GHG emissions, but the state strategy should consider the broader role of development patterns in meeting GHG reduction requirements. For example, the GHG-reduction benefits of transit are significantly increased when you consider supporting land use and transit-oriented development patterns, making increased transit an essential element of our climate strategy.

We appreciate your efforts to engage local governments in the CLEW process. We urge the state to partner with and support local governments in developing policy and implementing GHG reduction strategies. We are supportive of bold and thoughtful state policies and actions to reduce GHG emissions that can work in concert with the commitments and investments we are making at the local level. We look forward to the next steps of the CLEW effort.

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Sincerely,



Bruce Bassett
Mayor, City of Mercer Island



Dow Constantine
King County Executive



Joan McBride
Mayor, City of Kirkland



Ava Frisinger
Mayor, City of Issaquah



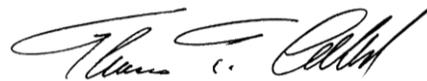
Matthew R. Larson
Mayor, City of Snoqualmie



Keith McGlashan
Mayor, City of Shoreline



Michael McGinn
Mayor, City of Seattle



Tom Odell
Mayor, City of Sammamish



Jim Haggerton
Mayor, City of Tukwila

cc: The Honorable Sharon Brown, Washington State Senate
The Honorable Annette Cleveland, Washington State Senate
The Honorable Jake Fey, Washington State House of Representatives
The Honorable Jessyn Farrell, Washington State House of Representatives
The Honorable Liz Pike, Washington State House of Representatives