

KING COUNTY

Signature Report

Motion 16662

Proposed No. 2024-0272.1 **Sponsors** Balducci, Upthegrove, Zahilay, Dembowski, Mosqueda, Barón and Perry

1 A MOTION expressing the King County council's 2 opposition to the approval of Washington state Initiative 3 2117, which, if approved by voters, would repeal sections 4 of the Climate Commitment Act and prohibit state agencies 5 from implementing any type of carbon tax credit trading. 6 WHEREAS, Washington state Initiative 2117, which, if approved by the voters, 7 would repeal sections of the Climate Commitment Act and prohibit state agencies from 8 implementing any type of carbon tax credit trading, will be before Washington state 9 voters in the general election on November 5, 2024, and 10 WHEREAS, in 2021, Chapter 316, Laws of Washington 2021, known as the 11 Washington Climate Commitment Act, was enacted, which sets annual emission limits 12 for major emitters, such as oil refineries and utilities, and establishes a market-based 13 program, which is a cap-and-invest program, to reduce carbon pollution and achieve 14 greenhouse gas limits set in Washington state law, and 15 WHEREAS, the Washington Climate Commitment Act requires revenues raised 16 from the auction of emissions allowances must be re-invested into projects and grants 17 that help to achieve state climate change mitigation and resilience goals, and 18 WHEREAS, the Washington Climate Commitment Act requires that a minimum 19 of 35 percent of auction revenue be used for projects that directly benefit vulnerable

20 populations with overburdened communities and Initiative 2117 would eliminate the 21 revenue source for these projects, and 22 WHEREAS, during the 2023 and 2024 legislative sessions, state lawmakers 23 allocated about \$2.8 billion of anticipated revenue from the Climate Commitment Act to 24 climate programs across the state and Initiative 2117 would eliminate the revenue source 25 for these programs, and 26 WHEREAS, revenues from the Climate Commitment Act advance or directly 27 support King County in meeting its climate operational goals set forth in the Strategic 28 Climate Action Plan, adopted by Motion 15866. Climate Commitment Act revenues will 29 support regional trails, including Eastrail, flexible funding to support transit operations 30 and services, support for the Metro transit department's Access paratransit operations, 31 free youth transit fare, capital infrastructure to support a zero-emission transit fleet, 32 installation of electric vehicle chargers, energy retrofit and solar power grants for public 33 buildings, landfill methane reduction, and grants to support local government planning 34 related to climate. Initiative 2117 would eliminate Climate Commitment Act revenues 35 supporting these investments, and 36 WHEREAS, revenues from the Climate Commitment Act will advance or directly 37 support climate initiatives in cities, schools, community based organizations, and 38 businesses in King County, such as solar installations for Federal Way public schools, air 39 quality mitigation equipment to residential, recreational, and educational facilities in 40 South King County, home electrification and appliance rebate program, grants to support 41 green jobs, workforce, and infrastructure, grants to improve urban tree canopy, riparian 42 protection grants, grants to reduce flooding and improve salmon habitat, and research to

address disproportionate asthma rates of residents within a ten mile radius of Sea-Tac
airport. Initiative 2117 would eliminate Climate Commitment Act revenues supporting
these investments, and
WHEREAS, approval of Initiative 2117 by Washington voters would decrease
funding for state investments in transportation, clean air, renewable energy, conservation,
and emissions-reduction, and without such state investments, King County's goals to
reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address impacts from climate change set forth in
the Strategic Climate Action Plan would be adversely impacted, and
WHEREAS, RCW 42.17A.555(1) authorizes the King County council to take
action "to express a collective decision, or to actually vote on a motion, to support or
oppose a ballot measure so long as (a) the agenda includes the title and number of the
ballot proposition, and (b) members of the public and councilmembers are afforded an
approximately equal opportunity to express an opposing view," and
WHEREAS, consistent with RCW 42.17A.55, the King County council
considered Initiative 2117 at its INSERT DATE, regular meeting, and provided members
of the public and council an approximately equal opportunity to express support or
opposition to Initiative 2117;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the King County council:
The King County council expresses its opposition to Initiative 2117 and
encourages the citizens of King County to reject Initiative 2117, a measure seeking to
repeal sections of the 2021 Washington Climate Commitment Act, and to bar state
agencies from imposing any type of program involving the trading of carbon tax credits,
at the November 5, 2024, general election.



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1200 King County Courthouse 516 Third Avenue Seattle, WA 98104

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Motion 16662 was introduced on 8/27/2024 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 9/10/2024, by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Balducci, Barón, Dembowski, Mosqueda, Perry,

Upthegrove and Zahilay

Excused: 2 - Dunn and von Reichbauer

KING COUNTY COUNCIL KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

-Signed by:

Dave Upthegrove, Chair

ATTEST:

-DocuSigned by:

Melani Hay

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None

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melani.hay@kingcounty.gov

Clerk of the Council King County Council

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Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps

Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps	
Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	9/11/2024 12:01:18 PM	
Certified Delivered	Security Checked	9/11/2024 1:30:53 PM	
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