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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4009

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State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Fitzgibbon, McBride, Peterson, and Fey

1            TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE  
5 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED  
6 STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF  
7 STATE, AND THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL  
8 PROTECTION AGENCY:

9            We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
10 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,  
11 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

12            WHEREAS, Global climate change is a real and urgent problem  
13 caused by human activities; and

14            WHEREAS, The State of Washington and other states have been and  
15 will continue to be negatively impacted by the effects of climate  
16 change, including reduced winter snowpack, drought, more frequent  
17 extreme weather events, increased frequencies of forest fires and  
18 insect infestations, and acidifying oceans that harm shellfish and  
19 otherwise disrupt marine ecosystem viability; and

20            WHEREAS, While actions by individuals, local governments,  
21 environmentally minded businesses, states, and other disparate  
22 efforts are necessary and important, climate change is nevertheless

1 fundamentally a problem of global scope and is most effectively  
2 addressed on an international and global scale; and

3 WHEREAS, Washington State has already built upon its comparably  
4 clean electricity portfolio by enacting a variety of narrowly focused  
5 policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions by shifting to cleaner  
6 fuel and energy sources and increasing energy-use efficiency; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States has taken certain nationwide actions  
8 that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as increasing the  
9 national fuel efficiency standards for vehicles and requiring all  
10 states to develop plans under the Clean Air Act to achieve measurable  
11 greenhouse gas emission reductions; and

12 WHEREAS, The United States recently made significant progress  
13 towards combating climate change through an accord with China that  
14 commits the two nations responsible for the greatest volumes of  
15 greenhouse gas emissions to measurable reductions of their greenhouse  
16 gas emissions well into the future; and

17 WHEREAS, In spite of the progress made by these recent actions,  
18 the State of Washington and the nation will continue to be  
19 increasingly impacted by climate change without additional and  
20 significant nationwide and globally coordinated efforts to reduce  
21 global greenhouse gas emissions; and

22 WHEREAS, Taking action to make progress against global climate  
23 change is an opportunity for the United States to continue our long  
24 history of global leadership and encouraging innovation by providing  
25 a strong example for other nations to follow and join;

26 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
27 United States take unified national action to address global climate  
28 change by committing to participating in strong international or  
29 global commitments to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

30 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
31 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United  
32 States, the Secretary of the United States department of Energy, the  
33 Secretary of the United States department of the Interior, the United  
34 States Secretary of State, the Administrator of the United States  
35 Environmental Protection Agency, the President of the United States  
36 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member  
37 of Congress from the State of Washington.

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