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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4011

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State of Washington                      64th Legislature      2015 3rd Special Session

By Representatives Shea, Taylor, G. Hunt, Young, Buys, Pike, McCaslin, Scott, Holy, Harris, Condotta, Short, Schmick, Manweller, and Kretz

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 STATE, AND TO THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
6            GENERAL, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL  
7            PROTECTION AGENCY:

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

11           WHEREAS, Washington state and its trade partners in Alaska and  
12           Montana are energy-rich due to the contributions of unionized and  
13           other blue collar workers that deserve a future in Washington state's  
14           economic climate; and

15           WHEREAS, Petroleum refiners create more than 26,000 jobs in  
16           Washington state, contribute four hundred twenty-four million dollars  
17           in state taxes and reward nearly one billion seven hundred million  
18           dollars in personal income; and

19           WHEREAS, Refinery jobs pay average annual wages above \$80,000 and  
20           create an additional 10.68 jobs indirectly through increased economic  
21           activity at ports, in aerospace and maritime industries, on farms,  
22           and embedded within Washington's remarkable supply chain; and

1       WHEREAS, Washington consumers use 61 percent of our refined fuels  
2 in-state for vehicular, industrial, and jet fuels, and export 39  
3 percent of our state's refined fuels on international markets  
4 including toward impoverished nations; and

5       WHEREAS, Increased fossil fuel production will lower market  
6 prices for fossil fuels, making them more obtainable by energy-poor  
7 nations; and

8       WHEREAS, One-half of the world's population lives in energy  
9 poverty that Washington state legislators can help eliminate; and

10       WHEREAS, Globally, one in five people lack access to electricity  
11 and two in five people lack clean cooking facilities; and

12       WHEREAS, The world's deadliest environmental issue, killing 4  
13 million people annually and constituting more than 50 percent of  
14 premature deaths among children under five years, is poor indoor air  
15 quality resulting from those living without electricity who are  
16 forced to burn biomass inside of their homes; and

17       WHEREAS, International economic development, including  
18 opportunities for industrial growth, better education, healthier  
19 lives, and representative government, are only created with an  
20 adequate and reliable power source, and fossil fuels are the world's  
21 most abundant, available, and reliable energy source; and

22       WHEREAS, Eliminating the exploration, drilling, refining, and  
23 trading of fossil fuels in energy-rich states like Washington and  
24 Alaska in order to prevent unsubstantiated claims of environmental  
25 harm whilst inflicting energy poverty's direct, measurable, and  
26 lethal risks upon human populations in developing nations is not  
27 moral, socially just, nor economically wise; and

28       WHEREAS, Taxpayer dollars spent mitigating unsubstantiated claims  
29 of environmental harm by fossil fuels are taxpayer dollars not spent  
30 supporting the labor jobs that rely on fossil fuels; and

31       WHEREAS, This year the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on  
32 Climate Change found temperatures rising 90 percent less than models  
33 had predicted, specifically, Zengchao Hao et al found decreasing  
34 drought affliction, and Weinkle et al found decreasing frequency of  
35 tropical cyclones; and

36       WHEREAS, Taxpayer dollars spent imposing an artificial market for  
37 other expensive energy forms are dollars not spent curing energy  
38 poverty using fossil fuel energy; and

39       WHEREAS, The Center for Global Development finds that investment  
40 in gas electrification lifts nearly four times more people out of

1 poverty than renewable energy, while the International Energy Agency  
2 finds photovoltaic and wind energy provide for merely 0.4 percent of  
3 consumption now and will account for only 2.2 percent in 2040; and

4 WHEREAS, Those governing energy-rich areas who argue for policies  
5 that will suppress petroleum production in favor of unsubstantiated  
6 claims of environmental harm both deny existing unionized and other  
7 blue collar workers a claim to the fruits of purposeful employment  
8 and very likely will deprive the energy-poor of opportunities for  
9 life, liberty, and prosperity that the energy-rich have enjoyed for  
10 centuries;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
12 President, Executive Branch Agencies, and Congress take all steps  
13 necessary to assist Washington State in supporting the labor sectors'  
14 and fossil fuels industries' efforts to build domestic and  
15 international prosperity via free markets, to lift struggling  
16 populations out of poverty, and to facilitate an international  
17 marketplace that bolsters the fulfillment, peace, and welfare of each  
18 trade partners' communities.

19 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
20 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United  
21 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of State, the  
22 United States Attorney General, the Secretary of the United States  
23 Environmental Protection Agency, the President of the Senate, the  
24 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress  
25 from the State of Washington.

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