

CALL TO CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

Calling on Congress and State Legislatures to Act on Climate to Protect Students

WHEREAS, we believe that climate change is not a partisan issue and that local, state, and national policies should be guided by the best available science; and,

WHEREAS, there is a broad consensus among climate scientists that human activities, contributing to increases in greenhouse gas emissions are the dominant cause of climate change; and,

WHEREAS, children represent a particularly vulnerable group because greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere will continue to accumulate over the coming decades and will profoundly impact our current students throughout their lives, as well as the lives of future generations; and,

WHEREAS, Lopez Island School District relies on critical funding from levies based on assessed real estate values, and homes on Flat Point, MacKay Harbor and Bayshore are at enhanced risk of catastrophic flooding from sea level rise and more intense winter storms consistent with climate change; and

WHEREAS, climate change will make summers drier on Lopez Island, increasing the chances of catastrophic fires, and increased forest fires in the region have led to historically poor air quality on Lopez and in Washington State; and,

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of the climate-related Sonoma County California fires which destroyed the homes of more than 1400 students, the Sonoma County Office of Education has encouraged school districts to engage in non-partisan climate advocacy; more than 50 school boards and student councils in California, Colorado, Oregon, Ohio, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, and Virginia and have passed non-partisan climate action resolutions;

WHEREAS, climate change is a social justice and equity issue. While climate change impacts *all* people and disproportionately impacts *all* young people and future generations, it disproportionately affects people of color and people in poverty, thereby exacerbating existing inequities and limiting equality of opportunity which is a foundational aspiration for modern America;

WHEREAS, 21 youth claimants are currently asserting a constitutional right for a livable climate in the *Juliana v. U.S.* case currently in federal courts and dozens of other youth claimants are making similar claims in state courts around the country; and

WHEREAS, the global impact, urgency, and magnitude of the challenge of addressing climate change calls for leadership in all sectors of society, all institutions and all elected leaders; and,

WHEREAS, national and state elected leaders working in a bipartisan fashion to enact carbon pricing policies could quickly substantially reduce human-made greenhouse gas emissions; and,

WHEREAS, Lopez Island School district was one of three Washington State schools named by the U.S. Department of Education in 2019 as a Green Ribbon School in recognition of our school's significant progress toward reducing environmental impact and costs, and providing effective environmental and sustainability education; and,

WHEREAS, with the signing of Senate Bill 6032 into law a year ago today, Washington became the first state to dedicate significant support to climate education, committing \$4 million for grants for teaching training including training in the climate science standards;

LET IT THEREFORE BE RESOLVED THAT, the Lopez Island School Board calls on Congress and our State Legislature to swiftly enact common sense state and national climate policies, such as:

- Carbon pricing;
- 100% clean energy transition plans that include safety nets and training for transitioning workers;
- green infrastructure and technology investments that meet the urgency, scope, and scale outlined in the IPCC's Special Report, "Global Warming of 1.5 Degrees Celsius,"
- investments in forestry and regenerative agriculture to drawdown CO2 from the atmosphere and sequester in soils and biomass;

in order to restore the climate to protect young people and future generations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Board is in support of teachers throughout America incorporating climate change into curriculum and encourages Lopez school teachers to make use of Washington State's grants for climate education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the school board directs the district clerk to transmit copies of this resolution to the following: the Lopez student council, the San Juan County Council, the State Superintendent of Education and the Washington State Board of Education, the Congressional Climate Solutions Caucus, the Washington School Boards Association, the Washington State Governor, the Washington State Legislature, and the Schools for Climate Action campaign. Notice of the resolution will be communicated to all members of congress at a summit held by the Schools for Climate Action on 28 March, 2019 at the US Capitol in Washington DC.