



CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Council Member Kristina Walker and Policy Analyst Christina Caan
COPIES TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Chris Bacha, City Attorney
SUBJECT: **Resolution expressing opposition to Initiative 2117.**
DATE: September 11, 2024

I ask for a resolution expressing opposition to Initiative 2117.

BACKGROUND

I ask for a resolution expressing opposition to Initiative 2117, which will appear on the November 5 General Election ballot in Washington.¹ The ballot measure proposes a prohibition on State agencies from imposing any type of carbon tax credit trading, including “cap and trade” or “cap and tax” programs.² It also proposes a repeal of sections of the 2021 Washington Climate Commitment Act (CCA) as amended, including repealing the creation and modification of a “cap and invest” program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by specific entities.

As currently in place, the CCA sets a cap for carbon emissions that decreases over time and requires companies to either reduce their emissions or purchase allowances based on their emissions amount. Businesses that reduce emissions are allowed to sell their remaining emission allowance permits to other companies. All funds raised through the CCA can be allocated by the State Legislature to communities statewide for climate projects focused on improving clean transportation options, increasing climate resilience, and addressing issues of environmental justice and health inequity.³

In 2023, the first CCA auction enabled the State Legislature to appropriate \$2.1 billion for climate projects in the 2023-2025 biennium budget, including support for a variety of programs in Tacoma. The allocations benefiting Tacoma included projects such as:

- The Home Electrification Appliance Rebates Grant Program, which provided \$1.94 million to help income-constrained residents in Tacoma transition from using natural gas or oil-powered appliances to energy-efficient electric space and water heating appliances;⁴ and
- The Washington Families Clean Energy Grant Program, which enabled Tacoma Power customers whose annual income does not exceed 150 percent of the area median income to receive a \$200 credit.⁵ This program had a total funding of \$150 million statewide.

¹ [Washington Initiative 2117, Prohibit Carbon Tax Credit Trading and Repeal Carbon Cap-and-Invest Program Measure \(2024\) - Ballotpedia](#)

² [Initiative Measure No. 2117 \(wa.gov\)](#)

³ [Climate Commitment Act - Washington State Department of Ecology](#)

⁴ [City of Tacoma Receives \\$1.94M to Support Residential Transition from Fossil Fuels to Clean, Energy-Efficient Appliances - City of Tacoma](#)

⁵ [You may qualify for a \\$200 credit on your power bill - Tacoma Public Utilities \(mytpu.org\)](#)

Passage of Initiative 2117 would eliminate the opportunity for similar awards to the City of Tacoma, as well as to other agencies and governments providing services to the Tacoma community, going forward.

DESIRED RESOLUTION DATE: September 24, 2024

ALTERNATIVES

The City Council could choose not to adopt the proposed resolution expressing opposition to the initiative.

SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION

Sponsors recommend the City Council consider the resolution on September 24, 2024.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact related to advancing the proposed resolution expressing opposition to Initiative 2117.

If you have a question related to the Council contingency fund request, please contact Christina Caan, Policy Analyst, at (253) 219-0679 (phone) or ccaan@cityoftacoma.org.

SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY: _____


Council Member Kristina Walker _____

SUPPORTING COUNCIL MEMBERS SIGNATURES

1.  _____ POS# 1 _____

2.  _____ POS# 7 _____

Mayor's initials Victoria R. Woodards _____