



TO: Mayor and City Council Members
FROM: Council Assistant Rebecca Boydston on behalf of Council Member Mello
COPY: City Manager and City Clerk
SUBJECT: A resolution in support of State of Washington Initiative Measure No. 1631 on the November 6, 2018 General Election concerning “Clean Air Clean Energy” – October 9, 2018
DATE: October 3, 2018

SUMMARY:

A resolution expressing support of the passage of the “Clean Air Clean Energy” Initiative 1631 at the November 6, 2018, General Election, which ballot title reads as follows:

**STATE OF WASHINGTON
INITIATIVE MEASURE NO. 1631**

This measure would charge pollution fees on sources of greenhouse gas pollutants and use the revenue to reduce pollution, promote clean energy, and address climate impacts, under oversight of a public board.

Should this measure be enacted into law?

- Yes
- No

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Mayor Woodards, Deputy Mayor Ibsen, and Council Members Beale and Mello

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

The State of Washington’s Initiative Measure No. 1631, if enacted into law, best aligns with the City Council’s Strategic Priorities to:

- Strengthen and support a safe city with healthy residents.
- Ensure all Tacoma residents are valued and have access to resources to meet their needs.
- Foster a vibrant and diverse economy with good jobs for all Tacoma residents.
- Assure outstanding stewardship of the natural and built environment.

BACKGROUND:

The residents of Tacoma and those throughout Washington State all deserve to breathe clean air, drink healthy water, and live in protected environments. Over 600,000 Washingtonians live with asthma, and thousands more suffer from upper respiratory illnesses and diseases caused by air pollution.

Climate change is one of the paramount challenges of our generation and will have near- and long-term consequences for the economy, the environment, and public health and safety in Tacoma. Residents of Tacoma are already experiencing the impacts of a changing climate, including more extreme rainfall events, rising sea levels, increasing landslides, increasing flooding risk, air quality effects of wildfires, and more frequent heat events that impact health.

Tacoma recognizes the need to pass on a safe, healthy environment and a stable climate to our children and future generations of Washingtonians. Tacoma supports policies that provide consumers with affordable,



cleaner, and more efficient fuel, energy, and transportation choices. State, county, and City shared climate change goals cannot be met without the accelerated phase-out of coal-fired electricity and replacement with renewable energy, investments in energy efficiency, cleaner forms of transportation, and investments in healthy forests and agriculture, all of which will be aided by the passage of the “Clean Air Clean Energy” Initiative 1631 (“I-1631”).

I-1631, by hastening a transition from polluting fossil fuel energy to clean energy, will create thousands of high-paying local jobs that contribute to local economies, in rural and urban communities alike, without hurting the health of their neighbors. I-1631 will provide a source of funding that Tacoma and other municipalities will be able to apply for to help fund projects that reduce climate pollution and mitigate the effects of climate change.

I-1631 prioritizes the protection of communities disproportionately harmed by pollution by targeting investments to provide direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to those communities. I-1631 will provide assistance to low-income families as we transition to clean energy.

I-1631 invests in our state’s natural resources, which are vital to our state’s economy and industries like agriculture, timber, tourism, and fishing, and which protect our health by reducing air and water pollution, and secure our community by lowering the risk of fires, floods, and landslides. I-1631 will provide funding to restore and protect estuaries, fisheries, and marine shoreline habitats; prepare for sea level rise; increase a sustainable supply of water; and improve infrastructure for treating stormwater.

I-1631 includes provisions for strong public oversight and accountability and respects tribal sovereignty and ensures that affected communities and tribal nations are consulted and involved in decision-making. I-1631 was shaped by tribal nations and communities most affected by pollution and climate change, and is supported by an unprecedented coalition of business, labor unions, environmental and economic justice advocates, healthcare professionals, communities of color, faith based organizations, and community leaders. I-1631 will provide Washington State with an opportunity to lead the nation and set an example in how to address pollution and climate change in an equitable and economically responsible manner.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City Council could choose to not express support for Washington State Initiative Measure No. 1631.

RECOMMENDATION:

The sponsoring Deputy Mayor and Council Members recommend adoption of a resolution expressing support for State of Washington’s Initiative Measure No. 1631 “Clean Air Clean Energy.”

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact for this resolution to express support for Initiative Measure No. 1631.