

**CITY OF MERCER ISLAND  
RESOLUTION NO. 1546**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, WASHINGTON, ENDORSING INITIATIVE MEASURE NO. I-1631, RELATING TO REDUCING POLLUTION BY INVESTING IN CLEAN AIR, CLEAN ENERGY, HEALTHY FORESTS, AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES BY IMPOSING A FEE ON LARGE EMITTERS BASED ON THEIR POLLUTION, AND ADDING A NEW CHAPTER TO TITLE 70 RCW, TO BE KNOWN AS THE PROTECT WASHINGTON ACT, SCHEDULED FOR THE NOVEMBER 6, 2018 GENERAL ELECTION.**

WHEREAS, the residents of Mercer Island and those throughout Washington state all deserve to breath clean air, drink healthy water, and live in protected environments; and

WHEREAS, over 600,000 Washingtonians live with asthma and thousands more suffer from upper respiratory illnesses and diseases caused by air pollution; and

WHEREAS, 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 the City of Mercer Island and King County; and

WHEREAS, residents of the City of Mercer Island and King County are already experiencing the impacts of a changing climate, including more extreme rainfall events, increasing flooding risk, and more-frequent heat events that impact health; and

WHEREAS, Mercer Island recognizes the need to pass on a safe, healthy environment and a stable climate to our children and future generations of Washingtonians; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, King County and thirty-nine cities adopted shared regional targets to reduce countywide greenhouse gas emissions twenty-five percent by 2020, fifty percent by 2030 and eighty percent by 2050, against a 2007 baseline; and

WHEREAS, King County and fifteen local governments whose members represent over seventy-five percent of the population of the county are partnering through the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration developed specific, shared action commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across King County; and

WHEREAS, Mercer Island is a signatory to the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration Joint Letter of Commitment, which includes the following:

**Catalytic Policy Commitment:** Advocate for comprehensive federal, regional and state science-based limits and *a market-based price on carbon pollution* and other greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. A portion of revenue from these policies should support local GHG

reduction efforts that align with these joint County-City Climate Commitments, such as funding for transit service, energy efficiency projects, and forest protection and restoration initiatives; and

WHEREAS, according to King County's Renewable Electricity Transition Pathways report, only a multi-faceted collection of actions, *including a fee on carbon pollution*, will be sufficient to attain King County's goal of a 90% renewable electricity supply countywide by 2030; and

WHEREAS, 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 Initiative Measure No. I-1631; and

WHEREAS, Mercer Island supports policies that provide consumers with affordable, cleaner, and more efficient fuel, energy and transportation choices; and

WHEREAS, the largest corporate polluters causing the most damage to our health are currently not being held accountable nor being required to pay to mitigate the damage they are causing to our communities; and

WHEREAS, Initiative Measure No. 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; and

WHEREAS, Initiative Measure No. I-1631 will provide a source of funding that Mercer Island and other municipalities will be able to apply for to help fund projects that reduce climate pollution and mitigate the effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, Initiative Measure No. I-1631 prioritizes the protection of communities disproportionately harmed by pollution by targeting investments to provide direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to those communities; and

WHEREAS, Initiative Measure No. I-1631 provides assistance to families with low incomes as the transition to clean energy is implemented; and

WHEREAS, Initiative Measure No. 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 pollution in the air and water, and secure our community by lowering the risk of fires, floods, and landslides; and

WHEREAS, Initiative Measure No. I-1631 provides funding to restore and protect estuaries, fisheries, and marine shoreline habitats; prepare for sea level rise; increase sustainable supply of water; and improve infrastructure for treating stormwater; and

WHEREAS, Initiative Measure No. I-1631 includes provisions for strong public oversight and accountability; and

WHEREAS, Initiative Measure No. I-1631 respects tribal sovereignty and ensures that affected communities and tribal nations are consulted and involved in decision-making; and

WHEREAS, Initiative Measure No. I-1631 was shaped by tribal nations and communities most affected by pollution and climate change, and is supported by a coalition of business, labor unions, environmental and economic justice advocates, healthcare professionals, communities of color, faith-based organizations and community leaders, and

WHEREAS, Initiative Measure No. I-1631 provides Washington state 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; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with RCW 42.17A.555(1), notice of the meeting during which this resolution is being voted on included the title and number of the ballot measure, and members of the public and City Councilmembers were afforded an approximately equal opportunity for the expression of an opposing view;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, WASHINGTON AS FOLLOWS:**

That the City Council of the City of Mercer Island hereby declares its support of the approval of Initiative Measure No. I-1631, relating to reducing pollution by investing in clean air, clean energy, healthy forests, and healthy communities by imposing a fee on larger emitters based on their pollution, and adding a new chapter to Title 70 RCW, to be known as the Protect Washington Act, and encourages the citizens of Mercer Island to vote “Yes” on Initiative Measure No. I-1631 at the November 6, 2018 general election.

Passed by the City Council of the City of Mercer Island, Washington, at its regular meeting on the 17th day of September, 2018.

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

  
Debbie Bertlin, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Deborah A. Estrada, City Clerk