

April 21, 2021

Dear Honorable Members of the Washington State Legislature,

We call on the Washington State Legislature to pass E2SSB 5126, “The Climate Commitment Act,” as it passed the House Appropriations Committee, and establish a comprehensive climate change mitigation policy for Washington State.

The version of E2SB 5126 that the State Senate passed was an important starting point. We appreciate that House policy and fiscal committees have adopted the priorities of Tribal Nations, environmentalists, and communities of color, and amended E2SSB 5126 to help it become a meaningful first step in achieving an effective, equitable, and comprehensive climate change strategy.

Climate change affects all of us. Whether it’s sea level rise, wildfire, smoke, ocean acidification, pollution, extreme weather, the collapse of natural resource businesses, or the extinction of irreplaceable food sources, the impacts of climate change are already here and cannot be ignored. We are calling on you to take urgent and decisive action this session to confront this crisis.

No single bill will be sufficient to confront the enormous challenge of climate change or address its countless causes and impacts. It is possible the bill may change again before it is passed; please keep us engaged and informed, so we can offer consideration. We see E2SSB 5126 as the foundation that all of Washington’s communities will build upon – working together to implement, review, strengthen, and fine-tune this legislation as it takes effect. But we must start now or risk irreparable harm to this great state in which we live.

Climate change is already a life-or-death threat to communities across Washington State, and we are calling on the Legislature to respond this week. We, the undersigned, are calling on you to pass E2SSB 5126 this session and put Washington on a path forward to protect our people, our businesses, our resources and our natural environment.

Sincerely,

Guy Capoeman
President
Quinault Indian Nation

Fawn Sharp
Vice President
Quinault Indian Nation
President of National Congress
of American Indians

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Chairman
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Ron Allen
Chairman
Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe

Robert de los Angeles
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Frances Charles
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