



ASWWU Executive Board Resolution

OPPOSITION TO WASHINGTON STATE INITIATIVE 2117 CONCERNING CARBON TAX CREDIT TRADING, Fall 2024

WHEREAS, Washington State has placed a ballot measure before the voters, and the official ballot measure title is “Initiative Measure No. 2117 concerns carbon tax credit trading”; and

WHEREAS, Initiative 2117 is scheduled to go to the voters for the Washington General Election on November 5, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Initiative 2117 reads as follows: “This measure would prohibit state agencies from imposing any type of carbon tax credit trading, including ‘cap and trade’ or ‘cap and tax’ programs, regardless of whether the resulting increased costs are imposed on fuel recipients or fuel suppliers. It would repeal sections of the 2021 Washington Climate Commitment Act as amended, including repealing the creation and modification of a ‘cap and invest’ program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by specific entities”; and

WHEREAS, Initiative 2117 will “decrease funding for investments in transportation, clean air, renewable energy, conservation, and emissions-reduction” according to the public investment impact disclosure prepared by the Attorney General pursuant to RCW 29A.72.027; and

WHEREAS, Initiative 2117 would remove funding sources for investments in clean air, clean water, forests, and farmland; and

WHEREAS, Initiative 2117 would allow increased air pollution; and

WHEREAS, Initiative 2117 would remove funding for programs that help restore lakes, rivers, and streams; and

WHEREAS, Initiative 2117 would reduce funding for projects to increase wildfire resilience and prevention across Washington state; and

WHEREAS, Initiative 2117 would remove funding from programs that protect fish habitat and advance salmon recovery; and

WHEREAS, Initiative 2117 would end billions in funding for Washington's transportation and infrastructure programs, jeopardizing efforts to replace aging ferries, fix roads and bridges, and reduce traffic congestion; and

WHEREAS, Initiative 2117 would end funding for the renovation of Western Washington University’s heating system³, in excess of \$150,000,000⁴, and for installation of a 100 kW solar system on the Science, Math, and Technology Education building with advanced bifacial panels. These projects represent important steps toward WWU's 2035 carbon neutrality goal; and

WHEREAS, a coalition of over 300 organizations across the state of Washington oppose Initiative 2117, including firefighting and wildland fire prevention organizations, small business owners, Tribal Nations, medical and public health experts, labor unions, environmental groups, and community organizations; and

WHEREAS, RCW 42.17A.555(1) authorizes the ASWWU Executive Board to take action to express a collective decision, or to actually vote upon a motion, proposal, or ordinance, or to support or oppose a ballot measure so long as (a) the agenda includes the title and number of the ballot proposition, and (b) members of the public and executive board members are afforded an approximately equal opportunity to express an opposing view; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the procedural mandates of RCW 42.17A.555, the Executive considered a resolution in opposition to Initiative 2117 at its October, 8th 2024 Meeting, and during said meeting, the Executive Board afforded members of the public and Executive Board an approximately equal opportunity for expression of a supporting or opposing view on Initiative 2117; and



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WHEREAS, with this resolution, the Executive Board desires to oppose Initiative 2117;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
THAT, the ASWWU Executive Board adopts this resolution to express its official position in opposition to Initiative 2117 concerning carbon tax credit trading.
PASSED BY THE ASWWU EXECUTIVE BOARD AT A MEETING THEREOF THIS October 8th, 2024.



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- (1) Kushing, K., Bezanson, M., Herman, J., & Moore, B. (2024, September 3). *Summary of Initiative 2117 to the Legislature*. Washington State Legislature.
<https://leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/Documents/Initiatives/2024/2117%20initiative%20summary%20-%20final.pdf>
- (2) Ferguson, Bob. (2024, July 19) Public Investment Impact Disclosure. Attorney General of Washington.
<https://www.sos.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2024-07/Initiative%202117%20-%20Public%20Investment%20Impact%20Disclosure.pdf>
- (3) Fenwick, M. (2023, September 5). *WWU leads the way to decarbonization*. WWU Leads the Way to Decarbonization - The Front. <https://www.westernfrontonline.com/article/2023/09/wwu-steam-plant>
- (4) *Mapping Washington's Climate Commitments*. Risk of Repeal. (2024, October 2).
<https://riskofrepeal.cleanprosperousinstitute.org/>
- (5) *Use of public office or agency facilities in campaigns—Prohibition—Exceptions*. RCW 42.17a.555. (n.d.). <https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?Cite=42.17A.555>