

RESOLUTION NO. 2010 - 18

A RESOLUTION PROMOTING ENERGY ALTERNATIVES TO FOSSIL FUELS, AND IN PARTICULAR, CANADIAN TAR SANDS SOURCES; AND ENCOURAGING THE USE OF ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION TECHNIQUES TO MINIMIZE RELIANCE ON FOSSIL FUELS

WHEREAS, global warming pollution from fossil fuel use could have severe economic and environmental impacts on U.S. cities in the coming decades; and

WHEREAS, the well-to-tank phase of high carbon fuels such as those derived from Canada's Tar Sands generates at least three times more global warming pollution than the well-to-tank phase of other fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the production and burning of any type of fossil fuel for transportation generates more global warming pollution than non-fossil fueled transportation; and

WHEREAS, the United States peaked in oil production in the 1970's and has since then increased the level of fossil fuel imports using conventional extraction methods sourced from countries that are unfriendly to our country or that are currently or have had supported terrorism against the United States or its allies; and

WHEREAS, the relatively recent fossil fuel production increase of Canadian Tar Sands can be considered harmful to the United States and to all countries of the world, releasing excessive greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and water pollution into the world's oceans; and

WHEREAS, failure to reconsider our current level of dependence on fossil fuels for transportation is an obstacle to the development of cleaner sources of transportation energy,

WHEREAS, the national reliance of fossil fuels has had severe local consequences to Bellingham such as the Olympic Pipeline rupture on June 10, 1999, releasing approximately 237,000 gallons of unleaded gasoline into Whatcom Creek in Whatcom Falls Park; and

WHEREAS, the gasoline ignited and exploded causing the deaths of two 10-year old boys and an 18-year old man who were beloved residents of Bellingham; and

WHEREAS, the explosion burned approximately 26 acres of trees and meadows, and killed all aquatic life in three miles of Whatcom Creek; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, Bellingham's Mayor signed the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement which states that signatories will "strive to meet or exceed" Kyoto Protocol targets

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for reducing global warming pollution by taking actions in our own operations and communities; and

WHEREAS, in December 2009, the City of Bellingham has accepted the report by the Energy Resource Scarcity/Peak Oil Task Force; and

WHEREAS, the ERSPO Report warns that continued reliance on fossil fuels puts Bellingham at risk for unreliable retail transportation supplies, unstable fuel pricing, higher transportation costs and this continued reliance further risks the availability of agricultural farm inputs and outputs, stresses public and social services for populations affected by higher energy costs, and disrupts Bellingham's local economy while overlooking the emergence of new environmentally-benign energy sources; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bellingham has adopted the Bellingham Climate Protection Action Plan in April 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Protection Action Plan establishes a goal to reduce the annual emissions of greenhouse gas pollution resulting from City of Bellingham municipal operations by 64% below 2000 levels by 2012 and by 70% below 2000 levels by 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Protection Action Plan establishes a goal to reduce the annual emissions of greenhouse gas pollution resulting from the activities of the entire Bellingham community by 7% below 2000 levels by 2012 and by 28% below 2000 levels by 2020,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Bellingham identify ways in which it can progressively shift its operations and consumption away from fossil fueled transportation, particularly transportation fueled by high carbon fuels such as those derived from Canadian Tar Sands; and

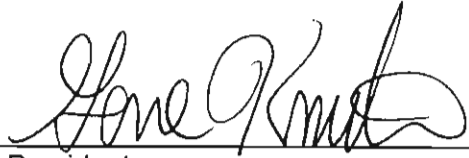
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Bellingham intensify its efforts to reduce its consumption of fossil fuel through increased vehicle efficiency, use of alternative fuel vehicles, and reduced vehicle usage through programs such as Smart Trips; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Bellingham, through new policies and incentives, encourage the development of transportation energy sources that are cleaner and less harmful than fossil fuel sources of transportation energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Bellingham, transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, US Secretary of Energy, US Secretary of Interior, Chair of the US House Energy and Commerce Committee, Chair of the US Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Washington State Congressional delegation, Whatcom County State Legislative delegation, Prime Minister of Canada, and the Provincial Premiers of Canada.

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PASSED by the Council this 7th day of June, 2010.



Council President

APPROVED by me this 10th day of June, 2010.



Mayor

ATTEST



Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Office of the City Attorney

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