

RESOLUTION NO. R2024-016

A RESOLUTION of the City Council of the City of Tumwater, Washington, opposing the passage of Washington State Ballot Initiative No. 2117 Concerning Carbon Tax Credit Trading.

WHEREAS, Initiative No. 2117 concerning carbon tax credit trading will go before Washington State voters at the General Election on November 5, 2024. This measure, if approved by voters, would decrease funding for investments in transportation, clean air, renewable energy, conservation, and emission reduction; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Washington State Legislature adopted Senate Bill 5126, a law known as the Washington Climate Commitment Act, which sets annual emission limits for major emitters such as oil refineries and utilities, and establishes a market-based program (a cap and invest program) to reduce carbon pollution and achieve greenhouse gas limits set in Washington State law; and

WHEREAS, Initiative No. 2117 seeks to repeal sections of the 2021 Washington Climate Commitment Act and seeks to bar state agencies from imposing any type of program involving the trading of carbon tax credits; and

WHEREAS, passage of Initiative No. 2117 by Washington voters would limit the City of Tumwater's access to grants funded by the Climate Commitment Act which provides important and much-needed financial resources to fund the implementation of the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan and the City's work to meet City Council adopted Greenhouse Gas Emission reduction targets; and

WHEREAS, Initiative No. 2117 will be presented to the voters of the City of Tumwater, Washington at the November 5, 2024 General Election with the following official ballot title:

Prohibit Carbon Tax Credit Trading Initiative

Initiative Measure No. 2117 concerns carbon tax credit trading. This measure would prohibit state agencies from imposing any type of carbon tax credit trading, and repeal legislation establishing a cap and invest program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This measure would decrease funding for investments in transportation, clean air, renewable energy, conservation, and emissions-reduction.

Should this measure be enacted into law? Yes [] No []

and;

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

WHEREAS, consistent with RCW 42.17A.555(1), the Tumwater City Council held a properly noticed public hearing at its October 1, 2024, Regular meeting, and during the meeting, the City Council afforded members of the public and Council an approximately equal opportunity for expression of a supporting or opposing view on Initiative No. 2117; and

WHEREAS, following a review of statements in support or opposition, the City Council finds it is in the best interests of its residents and the City to express its collective position in opposition to Initiative No. 2117;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TUMWATER AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Statement in Opposition to Initiative No. 2117. The Tumwater City Council hereby expresses its opposition to Initiative No. 2117, a measure seeking to repeal sections of the 2021 Washington Climate Commitment Act and to bar state agencies from imposing any type of program involving the trading of carbon tax credits at the November 5, 2025 General Election.

Section 2. Ratification. Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this Resolution is hereby ratified and affirmed.

Section 3. Severability. The provisions of this Resolution are declared separate and severable. The invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or portion of this Resolution or the invalidity of the application thereof to any person or circumstance, shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the Resolution, or the validity of its application to other persons or circumstances.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption and signature as provided by law.

RESOLVED this 1st day of October, 2024.

CITY OF TUMWATER

Debbie Sullivan, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melody Valiant, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Karen Kirkpatrick, City Attorney