

## 1           **Resolution to Urge Creation of a Clean Energy Task Force**

2   WHEREAS customers of manufacturers are becoming more interested in assessment of the  
3   impact on carbon emissions of manufactured products across the entire product life cycle,  
4   and large retailers are requesting more information from their suppliers about product-  
5   level environmental impacts, including carbon footprints; and

6   WHEREAS Washington's network of hydroelectric power plants is the largest in the nation  
7   and contributes to combined retail and industrial electricity prices across all sectors that  
8   are among the lowest in the nation; and

9   WHEREAS about 75 percent of the state's electric power comes from energy resources  
10   including hydropower, solar, and wind generation which generate near -zero carbon  
11   emissions at the source; and

12   WHEREAS Washington State provides a number of incentives for manufacturers, including  
13   business and occupation tax rate reductions, credits, exemptions, and deductions; sales and  
14   use tax exemption sand deferrals; property tax exemptions; and low-interest, tax-free  
15   industrial revenue bonds administered by the Washington Economic Development Finance  
16   Authority; and

17   WHEREAS The U. S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates  
18   Washington's manufacturing employment at 289,800 employees, or about 8.6% of total  
19   employment in November 2015 (see <http://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.wa.htm> );

20   WHEREAS Washington State could assist manufacturers in staying competitive by assisting  
21   them in making their manufacturing processes less carbon-intensive, and by creating an  
22   attractive business climate for low-carbon manufacturing;

23   WHEREAS SB 6545, creating a clean energy task force to explore these issues on behalf of  
24   the people of Washington State, was reintroduced into the State Senate in 2016;

25   THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Legislature establish a task force  
26   to make recommendations to the Legislature for modernization or enhancements to the  
27   state's energy, environmental, regulatory, and tax policies to enhance the health and  
28   competitiveness of Washington's manufacturing sector following SB 6545.

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29   *Submitted by Neil Norman March 1, 2016 to the Benton County Democrats.*