

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.

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