

## **Protecting Washington's Future – Vote No on I-2117**

Washington's Climate Commitment Act (CCA) limits and lowers greenhouse gas emissions from Washington's largest emitting sources and industries, allowing businesses to find the most efficient path to reduce carbon emissions. This powerful program works alongside other key climate policies to help Washington achieve its commitment to cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 95% by 2050.

The CCA also prioritizes environmental justice and equity in climate policy, ensuring that communities most affected by air pollution today experience cleaner, healthier air as the state reduces greenhouse gases. Additionally, funds from emission allowance auctions will support new investments in climate-resiliency programs, clean transportation, and addressing health disparities statewide.

### **What is I-2117?**

I-2117 will be on the Washington voter ballot this coming November. The initiative seeks to repeal the CCA, which would prevent state agencies from implementing any carbon tax credit trading and remove the jobs, economic growth and environmental funding that result from that program.

## **Why Voting No on I-2117 is Crucial**

### **Economic and Job Market Effects**

The Climate Commitment Act has been instrumental in creating green jobs and attracting private-sector investments, which are crucial for Washington's economic stability and growth. Shutting down I-2117 will allow for the continued economic growth brought forth by the CCA.

### **Funding Gaps and Project Delays**

The passage of I-2117 could negatively impact Washington's transportation infrastructure, which is in need of repairs funded by the CCA. If I-2117 succeeds, the state will lose a substantial portion of the \$17 billion transportation funding package, which is heavily reliant on revenues from the Climate Commitment Act. Funding from the CCA supports a range of projects, including highway preservation, bridge maintenance, and the expansion of public transit systems. The passage of I-2117 would likely cause notable delays and/or cancellations on numerous projects to improve transportation, affecting daily commutes and already heavy traffic flow.

### **Job Losses and Economic Downturn**

The economic repercussions of I-2117 extend beyond transportation. The initiative threatens to strip billions in investments from community priorities across every county in Washington, leading to job losses in sectors both directly and indirectly associated with infrastructure projects and green energy

initiatives. Reduced investment could also impact ancillary services dependent on these industries, resulting in an economic downturn.

### **Costs to Communities and Families**

I-2117 could shift the financial burden of pollution and infrastructure maintenance onto local communities and families. With the repeal of cap-and-trade, the costs associated with environmental degradation and infrastructure upkeep could increase, placing a heavier load on Washington residents. This shift might lead to even higher living costs, affecting the affordability of transportation, housing, and necessities like groceries, as the initiative could drive up prices across the supply chain.

### **Supporting Vulnerable Communities**

The Climate Commitment Act has directed significant resources towards improving the living conditions in overburdened communities. A vote against I-2117 ensures continued support for these communities, helping them cope with environmental challenges and improving overall community health.

### **Coalition and Community Efforts**

The campaign against I-2117 sees robust participation from a diverse coalition, including notable organizations and influential figures. Over 200 organizations, including AAA Washington, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, and the Washington State Labor Council, support the No on I-2117 campaign, highlighting a broad base of opposition for this initiative from various sectors. These groups emphasize the potential negative impacts of I-2117 on environmental protection, public health, and local economies, advocating for a collective effort to defeat the initiative and protect Washington's progressive climate policies.

### **The Petroleum Industry's Surprising Position on the CCA and I-2117**

Interestingly, “the Western States Petroleum Association — representing four of Washington’s oil refineries, plus others along the Pacific Coast — plans to sit out the balloting. ‘We do not oppose the [Climate Commitment Act] and believe the cap-and-trade program should be fixed rather than repealed. We are not involved in the campaign,’ wrote WSPA spokesman Kevin Slagle in an email.

The fifth Washington oil refinery is owned by BP America, which is part of the No On 2117 coalition.”

*Source: Stand, John. “The multimillion-dollar fight over WA’s cap-and-invest program”, Cascade PBS, May 3, 2024*

The petroleum industry's support for the No on I-2117 campaign and lack of opposition to the CCA demonstrates that even industries financially impacted by the cap-and-trade program recognize its environmental and economic value.

## How You Can Help

- Say "NO" to rolling back funding for public transportation.
- Say "NO" to rolling back protections for public health, forests and farmlands.
- Say "NO" to the loss of living wage jobs.
- Say "NO" to families and overburdened communities shouldering the costs of environmental challenges.

Your voice and actions carry immeasurable strength. By voting no on I-2117, you join a community of individuals advocating for a greener, fairer, and more sustainable Washington. This collective movement is an opportunity to demonstrate a shared vision for the future, where economic growth and environmental health go hand in hand. Together, we can make a difference.

Learn more information about the NO on I-2117 campaign, and find out more ways you can help protect the Climate Commitment Act at [No2117.com](https://No2117.com).