

1 **2021BCDCC-100-ENV-12162021- RESOLUTION ON USING TAX DEFERMENT TO IMPROVE**
2 **EQUITY IN SUPPORT OF CLEAN ENERGY**

3 WHEREAS nuclear power remains the second most important low-carbon source of electricity after
4 hydropower worldwide and nuclear power jobs are among the highest paying jobs in the energy
5 sector and the most likely to be unionized¹, nuclear capacity is not growing fast enough to meet the
6 required levels in the International Energy Agency's Net Zero Emissions by the 2050 Scenario, so
7 policy decisions are required now to put nuclear back on track², and

8 WHEREAS President Biden has set a 2030 greenhouse gas pollution reduction target aimed at
9 creating good-paying union jobs and securing U.S. leadership on clean energy technologies³, the
10 Democratic National Committee's platform endorses nuclear power⁴, the platform of the Washington
11 State Democratic Central Committee calls for state and federal research on next generation nuclear
12 power⁵, and nuclear power is included in Washington State's Clean Energy Transformation Act⁶,
13 and

14 WHEREAS the Northwest Power Pool warns that WA State faces a 17% probability of rolling
15 blackouts⁷ by 2026 from insufficient generation to meet an increased load as the last coal plant
16 closes in 2025, and the Northwest Power Pool and the E3 Northwest Resource Adequacy study
17 both warn that the effective capacity contribution of Washington's 7,100 MW of wind power in the
18 Pacific Northwest is only 7% of its nameplate capacity, that is, only 500 MW of wind power can be
19 expected on the coldest or warmest days in the region when the power is most needed⁸, and
20

21 WHEREAS decarbonizing Washington State's economy requires clean baseload power sources to
22 support renewables, and the next generation of nuclear power plants using small advanced
23 modular reactors need to be deployed in tandem with solar and wind to avoid additional fossil fuel
24 consumption, and the company X-Energy has announced its plan to build its first modular high
25 temperature gas cooled reactor, capable of load following renewables, near the Columbia
26 Generating Station in Eastern Washington, within the scope of the Department of Energy's
27 Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program⁹, and

28 WHEREAS Washington State provides a variety of tax incentives for development of solar and wind
29 projects¹⁰, but not, currently, for other clean energy sources, an amendment¹¹ proposed to the
30 Invest in Washington Act is aimed at encouraging the production of advanced and small modular
31 reactors and components in the State of Washington via sales and use tax deferrals, which are
32 repaid after a certain amount of time, unlike exemptions,

33 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Benton County Democratic Central Committee supports small
34 advanced modular reactor production and deployment in Washington and endorses the tax deferral
35 amendment to the Invest in Washington Act, and

36 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the 8th and 16th LD
37 Senators and Representatives, to the Senate Committee on Environment, Energy and Technology,
38 to the Governor of the State of Washington, to the Senators of the State of Washington, to the
39 Democratic Caucus leaders of both chambers of the Washington State Legislature and that it be
40 submitted to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee for consideration at its January
41 2022 meeting.

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**Environment and Climate Caucus Resolution ECC21-11-18-03
WSDCCRES – XXX– XXXXXX – XXX – ENV – ENCOURAGING THE PRODUCTION OF
ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTORS**

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BCDCC Chair

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Date:

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BCDCC Vice-Chair

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Date:

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47 References:

48 ¹ <https://www.energy.gov/us-energy-employment-jobs-report-useer>

49 ² <https://www.iea.org/reports/nuclear-power>

50 ³ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/22/fact-sheet-president-biden-sets-2030-greenhouse-gas-pollution-reduction-target-aimed-at-creating-good-paying-union-jobs-and-securing-u-s-leadership-on-clean-energy-technologies/>

53 ⁴ 2020 Democratic Party Platform (<https://democrats.org/where-we-stand/party-platform/>)

54 ⁵ 2020 WSDCC Platform, lines 735-736 (<https://www.wa-democrats.org/about/documents/>)

55 ⁶ 2019 Clean Energy Transformation Act (<https://www.commerce.wa.gov/growing-the-economy/energy/ceta/>)

57 ⁷ <https://www.nwcouncil.org/reports/pacific-northwest-power-supply-adequacy-assessment-2024>

58 ⁸ “Resource Adequacy in the Pacific Northwest”,
59 https://www.ethree.com/publication/?fwp_region=western-u.s.

60 ⁹ <https://www.energy-northwest.com/whoweare/news-and-info/Pages/Energy-Northwest-Grant-County-PUD-and-X-energy-announce-TRi-Energy-Partnership.aspx>

62 ¹⁰ <https://www.utc.wa.gov/regulated-industries/utilities/energy/conservation-and-renewable-energy-overview/washington-energy-independence-act-i-937/renewable-energy-incentives>

64 ¹¹ <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5244&Year=2021&Initiative=false>