

A Resolution Upholding Environmental Justice in Response to San Francisco Bay Chevron Oil Spill

WHEREAS, the negative effects of a heavy reliance on fossil fuels as a primary energy source are well-documented and the technology is hazardous and antiquated; and

WHEREAS, there have been at least 44 oceanic oil spills in the United States of over 420,000 gallons each since 1969; and

WHEREAS, the long-lasting effects of oil spilled into waterways are damaging to environment and wildlife, and cleanup is expensive and not wholly effective; and

WHEREAS, on February 9, 2021, 600 gallons of a petroleum and water mixture leaked into the San Francisco Bay from Chevron Corporation's refinery in Richmond, CA; and

WHEREAS, Chevron's Richmond oil refinery has been issued at least 29 violations by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District between 2016 and 2018, and is one of California's largest polluters; and

WHEREAS, this event is one of the many examples of a responsibility to pivot toward safer, more efficient, and more modern renewable energy in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the topic of environmental stewardship extends beyond preservation of the natural resources of Earth, and is also a topic of equity and human rights; and

WHEREAS, roughly 80% of Richmond, California's residents are people of color, and nearly one-fifth of families fall near the poverty line; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond-area has high rates of cancer, and over one-quarter of the area's children are reported to have asthma; and

WHEREAS, the critical need to work to replace fossil-fuels, natural gas, and other polluting, non-renewable energy sources is a matter of equity and global preservation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the First Legislative District Democrats join the Snohomish County Young Democrats in lifting up to our elected officials and our community the existential threat of environmental pollution associated with fossil fuels and their disproportionate health impacts on vulnerable populations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the responsibility of energy companies and government regulators to diligently work toward a strong clean-energy sector to sustain and support a high quality of life for all people, and for all living things, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution of concern be sent to U.S. Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell and U.S. Representatives Rick Larson and Suzan DelBene, The Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Governor Jay Inslee, the Washington State Department of Ecology-Northwest Regional Office and Washington State Legislators for the First District: Senator Derek Stanford and Representatives Shelley Kloba and Davina Duerr.

Approved by the Snohomish County Young Democrats by a vote on: 2/21/21

Submitted on their behalf to 1st LD Issues Committee by Tyler Kelson, 3/4/21.

Amended by the First LD Issues Committee with Recommendation DO PASS, 4/8/21

Approved by first LD Dems at the General Meeting on 4/19/2021