



Fortify Washington! Resolution to Commit to an Environmentally Just Washington State, Free from Bigotry, Racism, and Oppression

Prepared by **Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power and Light
(Earth Ministry/WA IPL)**

Transforming faith and conscience into action for the well-being of communities and the environment.

Whereas Earth Ministry/WA IPL, a 30+ year multifaith environmental justice¹ organization based out of Seattle, WA, which welcomes people of all spiritual traditions and practices, has been a national leader in mobilizing faith and sacred communities for environmental stewardship, justice, and advocacy since 1992, seeking justice for all creation by changing political and social systems that perpetuate pollution, racism, poverty, and injustice;

Whereas EM/WA IPL is grounded in the heritage of sacred traditions putting their values into action through engaging in direct action organizing² and thus claims the authority to call upon lawmakers to prioritize planet and people over profit, communities over corporations, and to ensure the costs of corporate activity are not paid for by the rivers, trees, creatures, and people deemed dispensable;

Whereas interwoven into the fabric of the diverse sacred traditions EM/WA IPL represents is a call to help end suffering, care for our neighbors, and be good caregivers to the life-sources abundant in our natural world, (e.g. Leviticus 19:18, The Greatest Commandment, The Golden Rule, The Qur'an 28:77, The Four Nobles Truths, Shared Unitarian Universalist Values of Interdependence);

Whereas EM/WA IPL seeks to create just and sustainable communities through the adoption of strong environmental policies that reduce harmful pollution, especially in frontline communities; restore and protect the waterways and diverse ecosystems, as well as those who live, work, play, and pray alongside their shores; and create affordable, accessible, and clean renewable energy for all and which addresses climate change;

Whereas EM/WA IPL seeks to educate, mobilize, and connect sacred communities for the mutual well-being of each other and our shared ecosystems, seeks to intentionally build bridges, forging authentic relationships that foster stronger communities based on shared common values to care for the sacredness of the Earth and committing to our shared responsibility to protect and restore it;

¹ <https://climatejusticealliance.org/ej-principles/>

² <https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/justice-local-church-ministries/efam/environmental-justice/a-movement-is-born-environmental-justice-and-the-ucc/>

Whereas EM/WA IPL understands the climate crisis is explicitly linked to environmental racism and that Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and poor White communities are disproportionately affected by health, economic, and environmental disparities linked to the climate crisis, believing that we must address the systemic causes of division that segment creation into categories of worth based upon their perceived value if we are to achieve our vision for a just, healthy, and sustainable future for all;

Whereas the unprecedented level of chaos, cruelty, and injustice flowing from the US Federal level is a direct attack on the environment, climate justice, and harm reduction work, ensuring increased levels of violence, destruction, displacement, despair, and fear, and demonstrating the urgent need for explicit affirmation that working for environmental justice is inherently linked with racial justice¹, universal human rights, women's rights, LGBTQIA2S+ rights, immigrant rights, disability rights, children's rights, economic rights, workers' rights, voting rights, as well as the rights for the land and animals;

Whereas the work of combatting climate change, reducing the disproportionate harm to frontline communities, and ensuring a just transition² towards a green future requires the commitment of lawmakers and elected officials alongside community members; and

Whereas the current political climate demands we must safeguard and strengthen our democratic processes, ensuring ours is truly a government for the people, by the people, and of the people;

Therefore be it resolved that, in support of the mission and values of EM/WA IPL, our Country, and our Democracy, the City of _____ asserts its commitment to Fortify Washington as an Environmentally Just State, Free from Bigotry, Racism, and Oppression, as well as its willingness to take action to resist any unjust efforts by any and all forces that seek to cause harm, division, and redirect us away from the necessary actions needed to further justice, health, and safety for our planet and all its inhabitants;

Be it further resolved that the City of _____ calls on other communities and jurisdictions to join with us in this action by passing similar Resolutions; and

Be it further resolved that the City of _____ supports education to increase public awareness of the threats of environmental injustice, the disproportionate impacts of the climate crisis on frontline communities, as well as authoritarianism, oppression, and white supremacy to our State and Country while promoting efforts to build bridges of understanding, compassion, and commitment to take the appropriate community and municipal actions necessary to respond to these threats and continue our collective work for a just and sustainable Washington.

1 <https://earthministry.org/environmental-justice-is-racial-justice/>

2 <https://climatejusticealliance.org/just-transition-2/>