

Good afternoon. I am Charlie Brown, a retired chemical engineer who lives in District 3. I oppose Resolution AB2024-401 because it undermines a very good State Law ESHB 1589 that passed the Legislature in March. It calls for making long-term plans to decarbonize large combination utilities to fight climate change.

401 resolves, under the guise of affordable energy choices, to revise state law. It is unnecessary for this purpose. 1589 already says “while continuing to protect all customers, but especially low-income customers, vulnerable populations, highly impacted communities, and overburdened communities.”

The real intent behind 401 seems to be to protect fossil fuels from 1589 which is “to meet statewide greenhouse gas limits in the energy sector” The resolution requests consideration of harmful effects but ignores effects of greenhouse gas emissions, including heat waves, flooding at Sandy Point, Birch Bay, and the Nooksak, drought, forest fires, smoke inhalation, and more. It misleads by using an example of converting an existing house from gas to electricity costing \$40,000. Such conversion of an existing home is not called for in the bill. It does not meet the goals of the Whatcom County Climate Action Plan. It asks for predictability, but sows unpredictability by urging for state law to be revised.

Furthermore, 401 does not represent the majority view of Whatcom County. 401 cites a Pew Research survey for U.S. - not Whatcom County - adults for complete phaseout of all fossil fuels. Whatcom County opinion is better characterized by the Yale Climate Opinion Model which says that, by demographics, 58% of Whatcom County adults believe that local officials should do more to address global warming. All 5 Legislators who represent Whatcom County in Congressional Districts 40 & 42 voted “yea” on 1589.

Please reject Resolution 401.

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