

Endorsement for Initiative 937

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3 **WHEREAS** making our homes and businesses more energy efficient and increasing
4 our use of new renewable sources will bolster our regional and national energy
5 security; and

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7 **WHEREAS** the Northwest's clean energy potential easily outstrips our future needs,
8 as confirmed by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fifth Power Plan,
9 which identifies more than 2,000 average megawatts of cost-competitive renewable
10 resources and 2,500 average megawatts of very low-cost energy efficiency available
11 to the region's utilities; and

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13 **WHEREAS** we need to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and overdependence
14 on hydropower to protect consumers from price volatility and chronic supply crises;
15 and

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17 **WHEREAS** the prospect of increased energy needs due to state population growth
18 and economic development has led many Washington utilities to pursue coal and
19 other fossil fuels, including proposed coal plants in Washington and across the
20 Northwest; and

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22 **WHEREAS** burning fossil fuels to generate electricity produces 69% of all sulfur
23 dioxide, 33% of mercury, 22% of nitrogen oxides, and 8% of particulate matter
24 emissions, as well as 40% of the carbon dioxide emissions that contribute to global
25 warming; and

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27 **WHEREAS** energy efficiency is less expensive for utilities and their customers than
28 purchasing new energy resources while saving money for consumers and making
29 businesses more competitive; and

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31 **WHEREAS** under Initiative 937 landowners would be able to receive annual lease
32 payments upwards of \$5,000 for each wind turbine on their property, and continue
33 to raise crops or graze livestock on the land, creating new economic development
34 opportunities for rural communities and helping to save family farms; and

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36 **WHEREAS** making the most of the Northwest's plentiful resources will position
37 Washington as a national clean-energy technology leader and provide thousands of
38 skilled, high-quality, family-wage jobs, rural economic development and stable
39 electricity prices for consumers; and

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41 **WHEREAS** 20 other states and the District of Columbia have already enacted clean
42 energy standards;

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44 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Whatcom County Democrats (WCDCC) join
45 with Washingtonians for Energy Security in endorsing Initiative 937 to the people
46 that will ensure electric utilities purchase 15% of their power from clean,
47 appropriately sited renewable resources by 2020 and realize all available cost-saving
48 energy efficiency.

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(Date Passed 04/12/2006 by Whatcom County Democrats)