



March 26, 2008

The Honorable Christine Gregoire
Governor of the State of Washington
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Re: Supporting ESSB 6580, an act mitigating the impacts of climate change through the growth management act.

Dear Governor Gregoire:

I write on behalf of the Washington Chapter of the American Planning Association (Washington APA) regarding ESSB 6580, *Local Solutions to Climate Change*. During the 2008 legislative session, Washington APA worked with many of the stakeholder groups as this bill progressed through the legislature and heartily endorses it to you – particularly section 2 of the bill.

Section 2 requires the Department of Community, Trade & Economic Development (DCTED) to develop and provide to counties and cities resources for addressing climate change in their communities. These tools include advisory computer modeling, response methodologies, and estimates of emission reductions resulting from specific measures. Access to these tools is particularly important to smaller, less sophisticated jurisdictions that want to reduce greenhouse gas emissions but lack the resources to do so. Merely providing these resources does not create a cause of action, nor impose obligations on local governments to use these tools as some may claim. We are frankly baffled by the opposition to this section of ESSB 6580, which explicitly states that these tools are advisory.

ESSB 6580 represents large compromises by the environmental community, local government associations, and the business community. Vetoing section 2 would up-end those compromises and block our State's path to a more sustainable future. We urge you to honor those compromises by signing ESSB 6580 as presented to you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Tovar', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joseph W. Tovar, FAICP
American Planning Association
President, Washington Chapter