



September 13, 2022

### **Sustainable Cascadia Statement**

WHEREAS:

The states and province we represent along the West Coast share a common coastline, heritage, innovative economy, and commitment to sustainability.

Climate change is threatening the safety, health, culture, and livelihoods of all the residents of Cascadia and the West Coast, with particular impacts on Tribes, First Nations, and overburdened communities.

Cascadia and the West Coast have been on the forefront of the challenges of climate change from rising sea levels, to increased large scale forest fires, drought, and increased storm severity; reflected by the following events:

- 2020 wildfires along the West Coast burned more than 5 million acres destroying towns, homes, and businesses across the region; emitting millions of metric tons of carbon; and causing many deaths; and
- in 2021, the floods in British Columbia were the most costly natural disaster in Canadian history; and
- the West is facing a megadrought with some of the most dangerous drought conditions in history and has seen nearly a 25 percent reduction in snowpack.

Our state and provincial governments, Tribal governments and First Nations, cities, local governments, counties, and ports are united in working together to address global climate change and build a sustainable future for Cascadia and the world; and

Our governments have implemented some of our countries' strongest policies to reduce emissions, create clean energy jobs, and mitigate the most damaging impacts of global climate change; and  
We have been working in partnership through the Pacific Coast Collaborative and demonstrated the unique opportunity we have through collective effort on issues such as grid integration, a comprehensive electric vehicle charging network, and responding to ocean acidification; and

Constructing a sustainable Cascadia and West Coast and meeting our collective greenhouse gas reduction and equitable energy transition goals will require the combined effort of all orders of government, community organizations, academia, and the private sector, as well as personal action by the residents of the region.

THEREFORE, as elected leaders, we are committed to continuing to work together for a sustainable future for our residents.

We are committed to continuing the work of the Pacific Coast Collaborative leading the world on fighting climate change, including through ongoing work on energy systems, buildings, transportation, food waste management, low carbon construction, clean economic growth, climate resilience, and ocean acidification. In this critical window to take action to achieve our 2030 emissions reductions targets, we are committed to West Coast collaboration to support an equitable transition to a low-carbon future; invest in climate infrastructure at a regional scale; and protect communities and natural and working lands from the impacts of climate change.

We are committed to working together by sharing best practices, data, and research for mitigation and adaptation; collaborating on policy development and implementation; working together to increase investment in the region; and building and connecting physical, economic, and social infrastructure for the region that accelerates an equitable transition to our shared clean energy future and increases resilience.

We are committed to facilitate public-private partnerships among our jurisdictions and Cascadia and the West Coast's private sector, non-profits, research institutions, and such other organizations as may share our vision.

Further, we commend the Cascadia Innovation Corridor Conference and those who participate in its vision of building on our shared values and common future to work together across Cascadia's mega-region.

Finally, as we step into the second century of the union symbolized by the Peace Arch at our border, we acknowledge that our inter-dependence is our heritage, our diversity is our strength, and our futures in the sustainable mega-region of Cascadia and the West Coast are inextricably linked as we lead in addressing global climate change.



John Horgan  
Premier of British Columbia



Jay Inslee  
Governor of Washington



Kate Brown  
Governor of Oregon



Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California

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