

RESOLUTION OPPOSING WA STATE INITIATIVE MEASURE NO. 976

WHEREAS Tim Eyman, Mike Fagan, and Jack Fagan have sponsored Initiative 976 (I-976), filed on March 19th, 2018, as an initiative to the 2019 Legislature;

WHEREAS on January 15th, 2019, Washington Secretary of State Kim Wyman certified that I-976 had received sufficient signatures to qualify;

WHEREAS Initiative 976 seeks to repeal vehicle fees that provide essential funding to Amtrak Cascades and freight mobility projects administered by the Washington State Department of Transportation;

WHEREAS Initiative 976 attempts to nullify the voter-approved Sound Transit 3 proposal, a plan to bring light rail and express buses to communities like Everett, Tacoma, West Seattle, and Ballard, by eliminating Sound Transit's voter-approved motor vehicle excise tax (MVET) and requiring that Sound Transit defease (annul) bonds backed by motor vehicle excise tax revenue;

WHEREAS the cities of Anacortes, Bainbridge Island, Battle Ground, Black Diamond, Bremerton, Bridgeport, Buckley, Burien, Carbonado, Covington, Des Moines, DuPont, East Wenatchee, Eatonville, Edgewood, Edmonds, Electric City, Elmer City, Enumclaw, Everett, Fife, George, Grandview, Granite Falls, Kalama, Kelso, Kenmore, Kittitas, Lake Forest Park, Lakewood, Longview, Lynnwood, Mabton, Maple Valley, Mercer Island, Moses Lake, Mountlake Terrace, Normandy Park, Olympia, Orting, Port Orchard, Prosser, Richland, Roy, Royal City, Seattle, Sedro-Woolley, Shoreline, Snoqualmie, Soap Lake, Spokane, Tacoma, Toppenish, University Place, Vancouver, Wapato, Wenatchee, Wilkeson, Yakima, and Zillah all currently levy vehicle fees to fund transportation improvements like road resurfacing and street maintenance which would be wiped out by I-976;

WHEREAS Initiative 976 threatens good-paying jobs in construction and the building trades that allow thousands of workers to share in Washington's economic prosperity;

WHEREAS Initiative 976 would gut the availability, frequency, and quality of alternatives to solo driving and thereby harm Washington's crucial efforts to reduce emissions of pollutants that are damaging our climate and harming our air quality; and

WHEREAS implementation of I-976 would reduce voter-approved funding to expand light rail, build new express bus service, maintain bus service, build sidewalks, resurface roads, and calm traffic on both sides of the Cascade Mountains;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that 46th District Democrats take a position opposing I-976 and urge all Washington voters to oppose I-976; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 46th District Democrats encourage all who support responsible transportation methods and fiscal management to join the coalition opposing I-976.

Submitted by Anne Udaloy (206.512.7517; annedualoy@gmail.com; 46th LD PCO 46-0734; 46th LD ECC; originated by Northwest Progressive Institute). Date of submission: May 15, 2019.