

Association of Washington Cities

Okay. Thank you. So I'm from the Association for Washington Cities. For those who don't know, we're a nonprofit that, whose members are made up of the cities in the State of Washington. 100% of the cities are members of our organization. Just this morning, we adopted our statement of policy, which is a six year document that guides the work of the Association of Washington Cities staff as we engage with the State and federal governments on policy issues that affect cities. And today we added specific reference to our support for regulation in protection of climate issues and we also refer to support for reforms the to regulatory systems when they meet a series of tests including fairness and equity, so our interest in this conversation is both one of supporting the need to regulate and protect our climate, as well as making sure that's done in a fair and equitable and transparent manner. And a number of our cities have a strong desire for economic development, Including, in some cases, these sorts of major projects that could have emissions implications and cities spend a lot of time and resources working to attract that sort of development and the ambiguity of how greenhouse gases will be considered in the status quo is problematic. We believe it's important to have fair and clear rules of the road, so that applicants and ourselves don't waste time and money pursuing projects that are unlikely to be approvable.

So, we do hear concerns periodically that the status quo, you know, can feel arbitrary. So, we support this effort to create clear guidelines. We will also look forward to being engaged proactively in this process and sharing more details on the specifics as they become clear. I think that's what I've got to say today. Thank you for the opportunity to participate.