

RESOLUTION NO. 534

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON, OPPOSING THE PASSAGE OF WASHINGTON STATE BALLOT INITIATIVE NO. 2066 CONCERNING REGULATING ENERGY SERVICES, INCLUDING NATURAL GAS AND ELECTRIFICATION.

WHEREAS, Initiative No. 2066 concerning regulating energy services, including natural gas and electrification, will be before Washington State voters at the General Election on November 5, 2024; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the Washington State Legislature adopted Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1589, now codified at chapter 80.86 RCW, creating Washington's Decarbonization Act for large combination utilities; the Decarbonization Act requires "combination" utilities, those utilities providing both gas and electric service, to facilitate a clean energy transition in the short and long term by developing a pathway that reduces emissions, prioritizes electrification, and provides forward-thinking programs to help transition customers from gas to electric thereby resulting in cleaner air and zero-emissions consistent with Washington State's climate goals; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Building Council adopted the current State Energy Code which establishes various requirements for energy efficiency and incentivizes electrification over natural gas for heat so as to achieve Washington State's climate goals; and

WHEREAS, Initiative No. 2066 seeks to repeal sections of the Decarbonization Act and create new provisions in other statutes and regulations, including the Washington State Energy Code, that would bar cities from restricting access to natural gas; prohibit the State Building Code from discouraging and penalizing the use of natural gas; limit the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission for incentivizing the termination of natural gas; and require natural gas utilities to provide service even if cleaner utility options are available; and

WHEREAS, the City's Climate Action Plan and Comprehensive Plan identified policy goals of achieving reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, including goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 60% by 2030 and reach net-zero emissions by 2050, compared to a 2019 baseline; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Shoreline City Council adopted Ordinance No. 948, establishing the City's amendments to the former State Energy Code to discourage most fossil fuels in new commercial and large multi-family construction projects for space heating and most water heating; the City Council was presented with proposed Ordinance No. 1023 at its October 14, 2024 meeting that sets forth amendments stricter than the current State Energy Code and seeks to reduce use of natural gas in buildings and converting existing systems to electricity as recommended in the City's Climate Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City is an active participant in the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) and has adopted by Resolution No. 449 the Joint Letter of Commitment for Climate Change Actions which includes several goals that advocate for the reduction of natural gas utilization including the reduction of natural gas and other fossil fuel use in existing buildings by at least 20% in 2030 and 80% by 2050; and

WHEREAS, if Washington State voters passed Initiative No. 2066, it would infringe on the City's ability to achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals and natural gas reduction strategies identified in the City's Climate Action Plan and K4C Joint Letter of Commitment for Climate Change Actions, thereby negatively effecting the citizens of Shoreline in relationship to climate change and air quality; and

WHEREAS, RCW 42.17A.555(1) authorizes the City Council to take action to express a collective decision, or to actually vote upon a motion, proposal, or ordinance, or to support or oppose a ballot measure so long as (a) the agenda includes the title and number of the ballot proposition, and (b) members of the public and councilmembers are afforded an approximately equal opportunity to express an opposing view; and

WHEREAS, consistent with RCW 42.17A.555, the City Council considered Initiative No. 2066 at its October 21, 2024, Regular Meeting, and during said meeting, the City Council afforded members of the public and Council an approximately equal opportunity for expression of a supporting or opposing view on Initiative No. 2066;

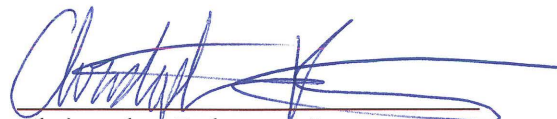
NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVES:

Section 1. Statement in Opposition to Initiative No. 2066. The Shoreline City Council hereby declares its official opposition to Washington State Initiative No. 2066 concerning regulating energy services, including natural gas and electrification.

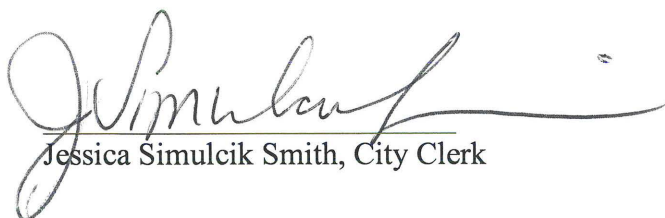
The City Council hereby expresses a collective position in opposition to Washington State Initiative No. 2066 because, if passed, this initiative (a) undermines statewide efforts that support, augment, and are in alignment with, the City of Shoreline's Climate Action Plan and K4C Joint Letter of Commitment for Climate Change Actions; and (b) would preempt the City's authority to pass local laws disincentivizing the use of natural gas.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect and be in full force immediately upon passage by the City Council.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 21, 2024.


Christopher Roberts, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jessica Simulcik Smith, City Clerk