

**Climate Change Executive Order Event  
May 21, 2009 – Seattle**

Thank you Jay (Manning) for the introduction – What a great crowd!

Thank you so much for being here today. And thank you for what you do every day to make sure the Evergreen State stays “ever green.”

Just the other day—I read that climate change appears to be cutting the winter snowpack in the Cascades by at least 20 percent. This will have a devastating impact not only on recreation, but also on our water supply, our agriculture industry, and our domestic fish populations.

This news is another wake up call – and it’s a huge reality check. It’s one more reason that inaction is not an option. We as a nation and state must address climate change, and tomorrow is too late.

Doing our part to meet the challenges of climate change is leadership, and self preservation.

That’s why earlier this morning, I testified in front of the Environmental Protection Agency. I am urging the federal government to take additional steps to limit climate-changing greenhouse gases. That type of federal action is overdue. It is great to have partners in the other Washington and an Environmental Protection Agency to protect the environment.

With President Obama as our leading partner – we will reduce climate-changing greenhouse gas pollution, we will promote energy independence, we will create thousands of green-collar jobs – and we will strengthen Washington’s competitiveness in the global race for a clean energy economy.

You are well aware – fighting climate change is difficult. The politics are tough. They are tough here – which is why a good bill – that so many of you fought for – died during the Legislative session. And the politics will be even tougher in Congress.

I thank Representative Upthegrove and Senator Rockefeller for their tireless effort to try to get legislation passed this past session. And thank you to the many environmental groups – particularly Climate Solutions, the Washington

Environmental Council and Washington Conservation Voters – who joined in the fight. The fight is not over.

If we lead by example, I am convinced we will gain the public support needed to overcome those politics – to show politicians and advocates that they can and must act now to fight climate change.

That is why today, I'm issuing an Executive Order on Climate Change. We can't let politics delay action on climate change – not in *this* Washington, and not in the other Washington.

By signing this Executive Order today, I am directing the following actions:

- My Administration will continue to work with the 6 other Western states and 4 Canadian Provinces in the Western Climate Initiative to develop a regional emissions reduction program design. We will work with the Obama Administration to help design a national program that is strong, and reflects Washington state priorities.
- We will develop emission reduction strategies and industry emissions benchmarks to make sure we meet our 2020 reduction targets.
- We will set a national example, and work with the TransAlta coal-fired power plant to reduce its emissions by over half.
- We will work with the Department of Natural Resources and others to ensure we have trees to capture harmful carbon, while creating financial incentives for the forestry industry.
- We will work together on low-carbon fuel standards or alternative requirements to reduce carbon in transportation.
- We will work with other West Coast states and the private sector to develop and implement a West Coast highway for electric and alternative-fuel vehicles.

In addition – we will address our rising sea levels and the risks to our water supplies. And we will look to add to our transit options – like buses, light rail, and

ride-share programs, and give our citizens more choices for reducing the effect of transportation emissions.

And we will continue to make our voice louder at the federal level. We will share our successes with the Obama Administration, and make sure a federal program meets the needs of Washington state.

We have so much to protect – from the Puget Sound, to the Cascade and Olympic Mountain Ranges, to the rolling Palouse. It is our duty to protect these natural wonders – to leave a legacy for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.

And by doing so, we will maintain our quality of life and continue to attract thousands of businesses. We will invite innovation, which will lead to the creation of thousands of green-collar jobs.

This executive order is as good for our economic climate – as it is our natural environment.

I want you to know – I value our partnership. I need you to work with me as we press ahead to limit climate change here at home, and on the regional and national levels.

Working together is the Washington Way. Let's show the nation and the world that we have what it takes to lead the fight against climate change.

Thank you so much. Have a great day and keep up the good fight.

I now want to introduce Senator Rockefeller...

*(Governor: Sen. Rockefeller will introduce Rep. Upthegrove for remarks)*