



PRESS RELEASE

Prominent Climate Scientists Endorse Initiative 732

Dr. James Hansen, renowned NASA scientist, and Dr. Richard Gammon, distinguished NOAA scientist, support November ballot initiative to reduce harmful carbon emissions in Washington State

SEATTLE, April 21, 2016 – Dr. James Hansen, the former NASA scientist who sounded the alarm on climate change nearly 30 years ago, and Dr. Richard Gammon, a former NOAA scientist who oversaw the worldwide measurement of carbon dioxide, have endorsed Initiative 732. They join a growing list of leading climate scientists, business leaders, economists, public officials, and social and environmental leaders supporting I-732. A full list of endorsements can be found at <http://yeson732.org/endorsements/>.

“We must act now in the fight against climate change,” said Dr. Hansen. “I-732 is an effective starting point. Its reasonably transparent revenue neutrality makes it better than anything currently in place in the United States. Achievement of the proposed plan for reducing carbon emissions in Washington would push the discussion toward a national approach a long way in the right direction.”

“The first and most important policy step we need to take is to put a price on carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels,” said Dr. Gammon. “I support I-732 because it represents the first meaningful step toward encouraging individuals and businesses in Washington State to reduce their dependence on fossil fuel, an outdated energy source that poses a direct threat to the future of our planet and those who will follow us. We simply must not continue on our present carbon dioxide emissions path.”

I-732 is the nation’s first and only carbon tax initiative going to voters in the November general election. It is designed to move the state toward two goals – cleaner energy and fairer taxes – with the following policy changes:

- **Tax pollution, not people.** I-732 will add a \$25 per ton tax to polluting fossil fuels
- **Pay less at the cash register.** Reduce the state sales tax by one percentage point, putting hundreds of dollars a year back into the pockets of each household in Washington
- **Fund an Earned Income Tax Credit for working families.** Fund the Working Families Tax Rebate to provide up to \$1,500 a year for 400,000 low-income households
- **Reduce the Business & Occupation tax on manufacturing.** Keep living-wage jobs in Washington by effectively eliminating the Business and Occupation Tax on manufacturing

“These eminent scientists understand the high stakes of climate change and endorse I-732 because they believe it will make a meaningful difference in the reduction of carbon emissions and set the standard for future climate policy across the country,” said Joe Ryan, co-chair of Carbon Washington. “We have a moral responsibility to our children and future generations to protect them from the harmful effects of climate change, and appreciate the vote of confidence in our proposal from these distinguished climate experts.”

Dr. James Hansen, formerly Director of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, is best known for his testimony on climate change to congressional committees in the 1980s that helped raise broad awareness of the global warming issue. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1995 and was designated by TIME Magazine in 2006 as one of the 100 most influential people on Earth. He is currently an Adjunct Professor at Columbia University’s Earth Institute, where he directs a program in Climate Science, Awareness and Solutions. He was trained in physics and astronomy in the space science program of Dr. James Van Allen at the University of Iowa. His early research on the clouds of Venus helped identify their composition as sulfuric acid. Since the late 1970s, he has focused his research on Earth's climate, especially human-made climate change. He has received numerous awards including the Carl-Gustaf Rossby and Roger Revelle Research Medals, the Sophie Prize and the Blue Planet Prize.

Dr. Richard H. Gammon is Emeritus Professor of Chemistry, Professor of Oceanography, and Adjunct Professor of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Washington, and former co-director of the UW Program on the Environment (2004-2007). Dr. Gammon was a co-author of the first Scientific Assessment by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 1990). As Chief of the Carbon Dioxide Program, he directed the U.S. program to globally monitor the atmospheric concentration of CO₂ (NOAA Environmental Research Laboratories, Boulder, 1982-84). His research has emphasized the measurement and interpretation of atmospheric trace gases critical to climate change. Dr. Gammon is actively involved in improving the public understanding of the climate change challenge.

About Carbon Washington

Carbon Washington is a bipartisan grassroots group of scientists, economists, former elected officials, business owners and concerned citizens focused on seeking a solution to climate change that works for businesses and households around the state. The group developed Initiative 732 as a revenue-neutral approach to tax carbon pollution while encouraging economic growth for families and businesses in Washington. To learn more about I-732, view endorsements from around the state, and get involved, visit YesOn732.org and follow on twitter [@carbonwa](https://twitter.com/carbonwa).

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