

Climate change from CO₂ pollution is one of the greatest systemic threats to Lake Sammamish and is probably the most urgent. Recently, we have seen record low flows and record high temperatures in our rivers including the Issaquah Creek. These climate impacts are contributing to the continued declines of our wild, native kokanee and other salmon runs, with resultant economic impacts to the recreational, tribal and commercial fisheries in Lake Sammamish, Lake Washington and Puget Sound. Acidification of Puget Sound due to increasing carbon dioxide is currently affecting natural and commercial shellfish reproduction. We breathe the smoke from our drought stressed forests that when burned threaten our homes, businesses and no longer provide water quality protections in our watersheds.

Initiative 732, on the Washington State ballot in November, is a simple and viable proposal to fight climate change that will start working immediately to curb carbon pollution while achieving social justice goals and making progress in reducing the regressive tax structure of this state.

Speed is of the essence. The latest research shows that negative climate effects are occurring more quickly and dramatically than earlier projections predicted. Though some physical measures of pollution in western Washington have improved (such as chemical pollution of sediments), systemic measures such as species population and diversity have declined. We cannot afford to wait any longer to address this monumental threat.

Save Lake Sammamish endorses I-732 as a necessary step in starting the reduction of carbon pollution at its source, and we can begin to address the detrimental environment impacts to our local, regional and global environment. Our mission is to protect Lake Sammamish, and passage of I-732 will immediately provide a fair, equitable and scientific approach to reduce carbon pollution and to protect our lake, our State and the planet.