

# Climate-resilient Growth For Our Future

**Washington is one of the fastest growing states in the country.** But from wildfires and drought to flooding and sea level rise, climate change is here—devastating our communities.

Radical right-wing, anti-regulation Republicans spread disinformation and sow distrust of government while their corporate donors rake in profit from unregulated and unmitigated growth.

Our communities cannot take another year of inaction. **We can grow responsibly.**

Everyone who wants to live in Washington should. Whether you live in Twisp or Federal Way, Richland or Bellingham, everyone should be able to get to where you need to go easily and feel connected to their neighbors.

**HB 1181/SB 5203 will help build climate-resilient communities in every city and county across Washington by:**

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transportation
- Strengthening communities and natural resources against the accelerating impacts of a changing climate
- Embedding a definition of environmental justice into the Growth Management Act

## Sponsors

- Rep. Davina Duerr (D-1<sup>st</sup> LD)
- Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon (D-34<sup>th</sup> LD)
- Sen. Liz Lovelett (D-40<sup>th</sup> LD)
- Sen. Marko Liias (D-21<sup>st</sup> LD)

A climate-resilient future means managing our city and town growth so that our kids, our elders, our communities can safely age in their own neighborhoods free from the fear of disaster.

No matter where you live in Washington, we know that every one of our communities is facing a new climate reality we must prepare for. Passing updates to the Growth Management Act is essential to a climate-resilient Washington:

## 1. Improve local land use and transportation planning to reduce emissions

The largest and fastest growing counties and cities will upgrade their land use and transportation planning to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build more livable and connected communities that don't rely exclusively on private car transportation.

- Transportation accounts for 40% of Washington state greenhouse gas emissions. That's why reducing vehicle miles traveled is such an important strategy to achieve emissions reductions.
- Local governments play a crucial role by creating vibrant accessible neighborhoods filled with parks, jobs, schools, and restaurants that are easy to get to. Encouraging walkable, bikeable, transit-accessible neighborhoods benefits communities and families while reducing carbon emissions.

## 2. Strengthen the resiliency of communities and landscapes across WA

Communities across the state are already experiencing the impacts of floods, heat domes, drought, wildfires, and wildfire smoke. Better land use planning can systematically strengthen community and ecological resilience in the face of these challenges.

- By helping our communities plan for climate resilience, we will support lives, livelihoods, lands, and waters across the state. If we don't plan, communities will experience greater consequences from a changing climate, far more costly investment in preparation today.
- Climate impacts look different across our state: coastal communities face ever-rising tides, mountain towns grapple with increased wildfire danger, and all of us live through unprecedented heat waves.