

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**ESTABLISHING SKAGIT COUNTY CODE TITLE 2.22,
SKAGIT COUNTY CLIMATE IMPACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, a scientific near-consensus holds that anthropogenic climate change will continue to disrupt the status quo climate; and

WHEREAS, projected climate change impacts on Skagit County's citizens, infrastructure and environment due to severe weather, rising temperatures, flooding and rising sea levels pose a risk to our community's health, critical infrastructure, and economic viability; and

WHEREAS, on November 28, 2000, recognizing the need for locally-grounded science review and advice, the Skagit County Board of Commissioners ("Board") adopted Resolution No. 18082, establishing a science advisory panel to provide science review related to agricultural buffer zone management; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the Board adopted Resolution No. 20080304, establishing a program and taskforce for sustainability and climate change adaptation and risk reduction (the "2008 Resolution"), directing a broad suite of climate change-related measures by County government and its departments; and

WHEREAS, the 2008 Resolution established a Climate Action and Sustainability Taskforce, charged with preparation of a Climate Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 Skagit County Climate Action Plan prepared by the Taskforce identified a broad suit of measures related to climate change, many of which were subsequently adopted and/or implemented; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 Climate Action Plan recommended the establishment of a Resource Advisory Committee to offer advice on carbon sequestration and other resource issues; and

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2025, the Board approved Ordinance O20250004, adopting the 2025 Periodic Comprehensive Plan Update. The 2025 Comprehensive Plan includes a new Climate and Resiliency Element, which establishes goals and policies to guide the County in addressing climate change with respect to land use; and

WHEREAS, the 2005 Comprehensive Plan's Climate and Resiliency Element directs the County to adapt to the effects of a changing climate; reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and per capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT); prepare for climate change scenarios; enhance resilience to climate impacts and natural hazards; and protect and promote environmental, economic, human health, and safety; and

WHEREAS, through significant sacrifice spanning across generations, the Skagit community has protected and sustained robust natural resource lands and industries including farming, fisheries, forestry and aquaculture, which the Board seeks to protect, sustain and harmonize over the long term through appropriate planning and resilience measures; and

WHEREAS, preparation for and adaptation to climate change invokes a broad range of questions and issues, many involving significant scientific uncertainty as to extent and timeline, as well as limited information regarding impacts specific to Skagit County; and

WHEREAS, climate change adaptation and risk reduction necessarily spans across county departments and functions, including Public Works, Emergency Management, Planning and Development Services, Health and others, as well as informing strategic Board-level policy decisions; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds the need for an organizational-level climate impact advisory body that broadly represents the Skagit community and is capable of providing advice to the Board on matters related to climate change adaptation and risk reduction, developed in a public, unbiased and transparent manner, focused on the long-term interests and needs of Skagit County and its people, natural resources, lands, and environment.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Skagit County Board of Commissioners that Skagit County Code Chapter 2.22, Skagit County Climate Impact Advisory Committee, is hereby established as set forth in Exhibit A to this Ordinance.

WITNESS OUR HANDS AND THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF OUR OFFICE this ____ day of December 2025.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Lisa Janicki, Chair

Peter Browning, Commissioner

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Linda Hammons, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Will Honea, Senior Deputy
Skagit County Prosecuting Attorney