

Environment and Climate Caucus Resolution adopted ECC21-12-06 (02)
WSDCCRES – XXX – XXXXXX – XXX – ENV –

1 Support Closing the Sprawl Growth Loophole in the Growth Management Act

2 WHEREAS Washington State’s population is expected to reach 10 million by mid-century according
3 to the Office of Financial Management forecast¹, and

4 WHEREAS urban sprawl encroaches on farmlands, forests, shrub-steppe and other critical
5 habitats, the combination of habitat loss and pollution being directly responsible for the 35 species
6 on the Washington State Endangered Species list, and 5 others on the Washington State
7 Threatened Species list², and

8 WHEREAS urban sprawl creates undue financial burden on taxpayers and jurisdictions to provide
9 adequate facilities, utility infrastructure, and services needed to serve these new developments that
10 sprawl beyond current service areas, and

11 WHEREAS the Growth Management Act (GMA) RCW 36.70A was intended to reduce urban
12 sprawl, a legal framework loophole allows cities and counties to accept, vest, and issue
13 development permits during the Growth Management Hearings Board (GMHB) appeals process
14 and the permits remain valid no matter what the GMAB decides,

15 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Environment and Climate Caucus of the Washington
16 State Democratic Party endorses legislation that will close the sprawl growth loophole in the Growth
17 Management Act by setting a new effective date for actions relating to urban growth areas,
18 agricultural, forest or mineral resources lands, limited areas of more intensive rural development,
19 new fully contained communities, planned residential developments, or master planned resorts as
20 proposed in 2021 SB 5042³, and

21 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Governor of the
22 State of Washington and all Washington State House and Senate Democrats. And that it be
23 submitted to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee for consideration at its January
24 2022 meeting.

25 -----

26 **Adopted by the Environment and Climate Caucus on 2021 December 16:**

27
28 **Contact Information ECC Chair:** Steve Verhey, verheys@hotmail.com (509) 899-4956

29 **Contact information ECC Resolutions Committee Chair:** Angie Homola, angiehomolad2@gmail.com
30

31 **References:**

32 ¹[https://ofm.wa.gov/washington-data-research/population-demographics/population-forecasts-and-](https://ofm.wa.gov/washington-data-research/population-demographics/population-forecasts-and-projections/state-population-forecast)
33 [projections/state-population-forecast](https://ofm.wa.gov/washington-data-research/population-demographics/population-forecasts-and-projections/state-population-forecast)

34 ² <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/listed>

35 ³ <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5042&Year=2021&Initiative=false>