

PROCLAMATION
OF
THE SWINOMISH INDIAN SENATE
ON
A SWINOMISH CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, there is overwhelming evidence of climate change occurring both globally and regionally, as supported by scientific documentation of the effects of climate change and global warming; and

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change, while evident globally and regionally, have the potential for significant impacts on the local community, including the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, the Swinomish Indian Reservation, and Swinomish Usual and Accustomed areas, due to projected impacts from rising temperatures, rising sea level, and other associated effects on the local environment, natural resources, water supplies, fish and wildlife, and critical infrastructure on which the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community has traditionally relied; and

WHEREAS, the projected impacts of climate change may include loss of tidelands and habitat, reduced viability of fish and wildlife species, damage to shoreline property and forest resources, damage to infrastructure and facilities, and associated risks to public health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty and responsibility of the Swinomish Indian Senate to provide for the well-being of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, as well as attend to the well-being of those resources, natural systems, and human systems which provide crucial support to the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and the Swinomish Indian Reservation; and

WHEREAS, the Senate has considered the potential effects and impacts of climate change on the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, the Swinomish Indian Reservation, and attendant resources, natural systems, and human systems sustaining the community, and has registered concern for such effects and impacts;

NOW THEREFORE, THE SENATE HEREBY PROCLAIMS support for a Swinomish Climate Change Initiative and declares the intent and commitment of the Senate to address the potential effects of climate change, and also hereby declares and directs the following actions to be taken under this Initiative:

To undertake efforts as possible to determine the potential local effects of climate change as may affect the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and the Swinomish Indian Reservation, including effects and projected impacts on the local environment, forestry resources, agriculture, fish and wildlife, water resources, and shorelines, as well as critical infrastructure and public health;

To develop appropriate policies and strategies for addressing effects and projected impacts of climate change on the Tribe and the Swinomish Indian Reservation and for contributing to reduction of the causes of climate change and global warming;

To develop appropriate goals for addressing effects of climate change and for contributing to reduction of the causes of climate change;

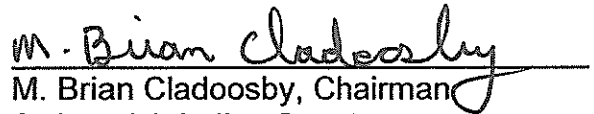
To develop potential programmatic and/or regulatory actions and changes consistent with said policies, strategies, and goals as appropriate to addressing the effects of climate change and contributing to reduction of the causes;

To communicate and coordinate with local, state, regional, and national entities and jurisdictions on addressing projected impacts of climate change, including government-to-government cooperation and identification of funding sources and opportunities as possible and available; and

To communicate to and with the local community about issues and concerns regarding the effects and projected impacts of climate change; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that all Swinomish governmental committees and departments shall assess how best to implement the actions under this Initiative as specified above, how best to incorporate such actions into ongoing programs and activities or into such new activities as may be proposed, and that the Senate hereby designates a Swinomish Climate Change Task Force to be comprised of designated representatives of the Swinomish Office of Planning and Swinomish Public Works Department, working in cooperation with the Swinomish Utility Authority and Skagit River System Cooperative, to coordinate implementation of this Initiative and to provide support for Swinomish governmental committees and departments in this effort, under the guidance and direction of the Senate.

By the authority vested in the Swinomish Indian Senate, this Proclamation is made this 2nd day of October, 2007.


M. Brian Cladoosby, Chairman
Swinomish Indian Senate