



September 21, 2020

From the Executive Board
Environment and Climate Caucus, Washington State Democrats

To the Democratic and Environmental Communities:

At the September 12, 2020 meeting of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee, one of our board members made a racist statement. The statement and the subsequent excuse-making, centering of white feelings, and other problematic responses from both the individual and members of the party were hurtful for many, with the impacts falling especially hard on Black, Brown, and Indigenous community members.

As a result, the member was censured at the September 12 meeting, and there has been a call for training and other actions within the state party

This experience has focused our attention on our own need for growth as an organization. As a caucus, we believe that there is no room for racism of any kind in the Democratic Party or the broader environmental movement. Here, we outline our initial response to this moment.

- On September 16, the ECC Board requested the immediate resignation of the board member who made this statement. The individual resigned at our board meeting on September 17th and is no longer a member of our board.
- Also at that board meeting, we agreed that,
 - schedules permitting, all ECC board members will participate in the Progressive Caucus's 21 Day Challenge diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI) training with Erin Jones; with the understanding that those who cannot attend will participate in another DEI opportunity at the next available opportunity.
 - We will sponsor 10 scholarships, available to anyone, to the 21 Day Challenge.
 - We are communicating with our members about this incident, our response, and the 21 Day Challenge opportunity, with encouragement for them to participate.

More about/join ECC: <https://eccwa.wordpress.com/>
21-Day Challenge: <https://f.is/gvfOB>

- We will be paying particular attention to environmental justice legislation that is expected for the 2021 legislative session and in subsequent sessions. We aim to ensure this legislation is given full attention by our caucus as we acknowledge that our ability to effectively advocate for environmental justice policies is rooted in our emerging awareness of racism in our organization and institutions that we interact with.
- We will be updating our bylaws and adopting a Code of Conduct to inform the organization's policies going forward.

These are only our first steps and we recognize that we have much more work to do. The current Executive Board is committed to doing that work and recruiting a diverse group of leadership in advance of our reorganization in January.

In solidarity,



Steve Verhey, Chair

For the Executive Board:

Cigdem Capan	E. WA Vice Chair	Benton County	8th LD
Arvia Morris	W. WA Vice Chair	King County	43rd LD
John Stafford	Treasurer	King County	37th LD
Martin Chaney	Technology Vice Chair	King County	5th LD
Anne Udalay	Membership Officer	King County	46th LD
A.J. Cooper	At-Large	Yakima County	15th LD
Amy Madden	At-Large	King County	43rd LD
Lael White	At-Large	Snohomish County	32nd LD
Tom White	At-Large	Snohomish County	32nd LD
Angie Homola	Resolutions Committee Chair	Island County	10th LD
Justin Baird	Communications Chair	King County	37th LD
Becky Chaney	Rules & Bylaws Chair	King County	5th LD
Margie Van Cleve	LSRD-Salmon-Orca Chair	Yakima County	15th LD