
From: Hugh Brown S.22(1)Personal and Confidential
Sent: Sunday, April 6, 2025 8:53 PM
To: Mayor and Councillors
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Motion to remove climate levy

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Dear Mayor and Councillors:

My name is Hugh Brown. I'm a S.22(1)Personal and Confidential and a father of two. I have lived in New Westminster for 19 years, and love this city dearly.

I'm writing to express my opposition to the motion to remove the climate levy from electrical bills that's being brought forward at the April 7th council meeting.

Similar motions have been defeated in the past, and there is every reason to defeat it again: polluting emissions from the fossil fuel industry are bringing extreme weather events like the 2021 heat dome, and New Westminster must prepare for the next one.

As well, Councillor Fontaine pointed out in 2023 [1] that we would be taking a \$2 million hit on the funds that let this city take action on climate.

We know that a safe and healthy city means preparing for the effects of carbon pollution. Keep the levy, and help keep the city prepared.

Sincerely,

Hugh Brown
S.22(1)Personal and Confidential Jack Mahony Place
New Westminster, BC
S.22(1)Personal and Confidential

[1]: <https://www.newwestrecord.ca/local-news/new-west-to-continue-collecting-35-climate-action-levy-9702728>

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Hugh Brown
S.22(1)Personal and Confidential

From: Betty Furey S.22(1)Personal and Confidential
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 6:04 PM
To: Mayor and Councillors
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Motion to Eliminate 3.5% Climate Action Levy

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Mayor Johnstone, Councillors Campbell, Fontaine, Henderson, McEvoy, Minhas and Nakagawa.

I am a member of the New Westminster Climate Action Hub. I am writing to express my concern about the motion being put forward at the April 28 Council meeting to permanently eliminate the 3.5% Climate Action Levy applied to all electrical bills in the City of New Westminster as part of the 2026 budget.

I have spoken twice at council meetings when the motion to pause this levy for a year and then reinstate it was proposed. The motion was defeated both times.

I have a problem with the statement in the motion that "both the federal and provincial governments have now abandoned their failed consumer carbon tax experiment." The carbon tax has been in effect in B.C. since 2008. BC was seen as a leader with this initiative. It generated funds that provided some relief in the form of tax credits for residents who needed assistance. Stopping the carbon tax will only cause a deficit in funds being generated for the province. The present escalating cost of living and the housing crisis are causing governments to make decisions that are based on today and not looking at what could benefit long term.

The carbon tax was something that brought attention to the costs of operating a gas powered car or heating a home and made many people aware of the benefits of using renewables. Renewables are no longer more expensive than fossil fuels. Prices are dropping dramatically.

The 3.5% levy on the electrical bills amounts to a few dollars a month and does not make a significant saving to an individual but what it has done as a Climate Action Levy is significant. It does and will make a difference in savings to all of us in the next years as we work together to try to implement the solutions that are available to reverse the damage that has been done through negligence and lack of knowledge. We have a growing contingency fund that can make a difference.

I urge you to defeat this motion.

Betty Furey

Sent from Betty's iPad