

March 6, 2023

To:

Cc:

Subject: ICLEI membership withdrawal request

Dear Councilmember von Reichbauer:

In January 2002, the King County Council passed Motion 11364 to participate in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign (Campaign). The main reason the Council approved the motion appears to be in regards to greenhouse gas emissions. This Campaign was a program of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), which organized to implement various goals of the United Nations. Currently, ICLEI through its Local Governments for Sustainability is implementing the UN's Agenda 2030. The County still has membership in ICLEI as can be found through the following website:

[https://iclei.org/network\\_city/metropolitan-king-county-wa/](https://iclei.org/network_city/metropolitan-king-county-wa/)

I am requesting the Council re-consider Motion 11364 and remove itself from participation in ICLEI based on the following:

- The UN Agenda 2030 has far-reaching impacts to the private lives and rights of the citizens in this county. Although documents produced by ICLEI might be referred to as “guidance” or “goals”, and even though “partnerships” do not imply treaty requirements as discussed in the United States Constitution, people often take “guidance” and “goals” as requirements. Consequently, violation of the US Constitution quickly occurs because there is no treaty requirement. There is concern that “guidance” could be quickly misconstrued as a requirement without proper oversight.
- If there are specific goals identified by ICLEI that the Council believes should be implemented, those goals should undergo a rigorous public outreach with county residents so that they understand the implications on their rights and properties. Far beyond “guidance”, the ICLEI has a stated commitment to the following, among many other things, which violate multiple provisions of our Constitution and human rights:
  - “enable a massive and collective whole-of-society and whole-of-government shift towards sustainable development in and among our jurisdictions, entrenching sustainability as the most fundamental and inextricable component of all local, national, and global development and cooperation in and across jurisdictions.” This commitment violates the independent and autonomous country established through our Constitution. It also establishes priorities that not all citizens of this county subscribe to.
  - “The sum of our efforts – policies, actions and investments – will catalyze the global change that humanity needs in this urban century.” This commitment violates the entire purpose of religion as well as our Constitution. Setting aside the theological implications for the time being, our Founding Fathers did not authorize the federal government to “catalyze...global change”. Further, I doubt that either the King County Charter or the Washington State Constitution authorize the County or Washington State to “catalyze...global change” over which neither the County nor Washington State have authority.
  - “Invest in sustained behavioural change campaigns and programmes in order to....” The citizens of this county do not need to be told how to live our lives by a body comprised of people who are not accountable to us.

- Some of the ICLEI members are located in countries such as China, Australia, and Canada, which performed some of the most egregious human and civil rights violations because of SARS-COV2 (“COVID”). This is particularly concerning because of our own federal government’s involvement in likely signing an agreement to transfer its pandemic oversight to the World Health Organization (WHO). This is concerning because of the transfer of responsibility out of the hands of elected officials, accountable to the voters, to an external third party that is not responsible to the citizens of King County or our country. The link between WHO, ICLE and pandemic response is clearly identified in the document “ICLEI In the Urban Era – Our Vision for a Sustainable Urban World” (April 2021) which states: “The COVID-19 pandemic response is a rare opportunity to change the trajectory of our development on the planet.” King County cannot afford to let it become subject to foreign entanglements that participation in ICLEI creates.

It is one thing for the Council to consider something about the environment in King County that the Council or citizens are concerned about, which was the case for Motion 11364. However, it is quite another thing to continue membership without stated limitations with an organization that is more aligned with the UN, WHO and global interests than the interests of the citizens of King County. Consequently, I respectfully request the Council to withdraw membership in ICLEI.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Coop