

# Methow Valley Citizens Council



## Board of Directors

Maggie Coon

*Chair*

Phil Millam

*Vice Chair*

DeeAnn Kirkpatrick

*Secretary*

Steve Kern

*Treasurer*

Kari Bown

Bob Naney

Craig Olson

Melanie Rowland

George Wooten

PO Box 774

Twisp, WA 98856

[www.mvccitizens.org](http://www.mvccitizens.org)

509 997 -0888

## **Methow Youth Visit Olympia to Urge Climate Action**

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Jasmine Minbashian, [jasmine@mvccitizens.org](mailto:jasmine@mvccitizens.org), 360-319-3111

March 11, 2019

Olympia, WA - Eleven youth traveled from the Methow Valley to Olympia today to urge their state representatives to take action to solve the global climate crisis.

The Washington State legislature is currently considering several bills which aim to reduce carbon emissions and help Washington transition to a 100% clean energy future.

Frustrated by the lack of meaningful legislative action on the climate crisis, youth from Liberty Bell High School in Winthrop, WA researched and prepared testimony on five separate pieces of legislation being considered for passage.

Following several years of intense fire seasons in the Methow Valley, which included evacuations and hazardous air quality, the teens were compelled to organize to secure their climate future. "All of us have been personally impacted by the effects of climate change, having been evacuated by large wildfires, and some of us have even lost our homes. Solving the climate crisis is incredibly important to our community and our generation," said Sally

Thornton White, 18 of Winthrop, who organized the lobby day as her senior project, assisted by MVCC interns Cece and Camille Odell.

The young delegation of climate activists met with Representatives Mike Steele and Keith Goehner and Senator Brad Hawkins. They also had the opportunity to watch floor debate on legislation from the gallery and tour the Senate chambers.

They also had a chance to meet with a coalition of climate organizers in Olympia who shared best practices and experiences in advocating Washington's legislature to address the impacts of climate change. "It is inspiring to know that we are part of a larger movement and that we are the future voters who want to take charge of our own future," said Icel Sukovaty, whose family owns a local meat farm that raises sustainably raised meats. "My family has been

# Methow Valley Citizens Council

impacted by summers of wildfire smoke, having to wear smoke masks while working outside, on days went you couldn't see the sun."

For all the teens involved, this was their first experience meeting with their representatives to urge legislative action.

"When you're at the Capitol, you realize that you are an important part of the legislative process and that your voice matters," said Leo Shaw, a member of the youth delegation who was especially interested in making it easier to purchase electric vehicles.

Other members of the youth delegation included: Nick Fitzmaurice, Henry Jones, Simon Studen, Lazo Gitchos, Sam Neitlich, and Lena Nelson.

The five bills the group is tracking are:

- HB 1110 – Reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with transportation fuels.
- SB 5116 – Transitioning to 100% clean energy.
- SB 5397 & SB 5323 – Reducing plastic packaging and implementing a state-wide plastic bag ban.
- HB 1444 – Setting appliance efficiency standards.
- SB 5811 – Implementing California's clean car standards and program.

###