We are asking the legislature to direct the Department of Ecology to adopt guidance for project proponents when an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is prepared.

**This Guidance is Needed Because:**

1. **No Guidance on Significance**
   - No guidance exists for project proponents about how to assess the significance of greenhouse gases (GHGs) under the State Environmental Policy Act.

2. **No Guidance on Mitigation**
   - Likewise, no guidance exists for project proponents to determine appropriate mitigation for emissions of GHGs that are significant under the State Policy Act.

3. **Legal Vulnerability**
   - The lack of guidance creates a legal vulnerability for any project emitting GHGs. As a result, projects are exposed to challenges claiming adequate consideration of GHG emissions and mitigation.

4. **No Guidance on Timeline or Cost**
   - Investors, state and local governments developing projects or taking non-project actions cannot assess the time it will take to complete review by the courts nor the ultimate cost of permit requirements in Washington.

5. **Increased Infrastructure Cost**
   - Uncertainty of this kind increases the cost of public infrastructure.

**House Bill 1549 and Senate Bill 5561**

Direct the Department of Ecology to provide guidance to eliminate the current legal vulnerability and process uncertainty.