

**To:** Majority Leader Fitzgibbon and Chair Doglio

**From:** Crops and Construction Coalition

**Re:** HB 1409

**Date:** January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Dear Majority Leader Fitzgibbon and Chair Doglio:

Thank you for your work that often benefits so many of us and our members. However, as a coalition of construction unions and agricultural organizations across Washington, we are writing to express our profound concern and disappointment regarding the proposal to strike critical language from existing statutes as outlined in HB 1409. As representatives of industries that play a pivotal role in driving Washington's economy, we feel strongly that these changes would have detrimental effects on job creation, rural economic development, and our shared commitment to a sustainable future.

For farmers, current law is a promise of new markets and economic resilience. With the potential to grow crops for feedstock, there is an opportunity to diversify income streams while contributing to renewable energy goals. Removing these provisions takes away the hope of a vital economic lifeline for many rural communities that already face significant challenges.

For construction workers, current law is a commitment to family-wage jobs and robust infrastructure projects. Building and maintaining processing facilities not only creates high-quality union jobs but also stimulates local economies through increased demand for goods and services. Stripping this language endangers these opportunities and risks slowing the progress Washington has made in supporting a thriving green energy economy.

We urge you to reconsider the course of action in HB 1409. By retaining the language in current law, you ensure that Washington remains a leader in the clean energy transition while prioritizing local job creation and economic development. Removing this language would be a step backward for members of the coalition who contribute so much to our state.

Again, we want to thank you for your work and partnership with us. We ask that you retain the current language in the Clean Fuels program, and we stand ready to work with you to balance environmental progress with the economic realities faced by Washington's farmers and workers.

Sincerely,

