



Legislative Building  
Olympia, WA 98504-0482

## Washington State Senate

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The Honorable Governor Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

September 15, 2020

Dear Governor Inslee,

This has been a year like no other in recent memory. Our state has been struggling with the coronavirus, an unprecedented economic downturn, severe unemployment, civil unrest in the streets, and a gaping hole in the budget. For months, we have repeatedly asked you to convene a special session of the legislature so we can work together to address these issues. Now, an outbreak of catastrophic wildfires has further intensified the urgent need for a special session.

As you know, when our state experiences a “catastrophic incident,” state law *requires* you to call the legislature into session as soon as practicable “and in any case within thirty days following the inception of the catastrophic incident.” RCW 42.14.030. A “catastrophic incident” is “any natural or human-caused incident, including terrorism and enemy attack, that results in extraordinary levels of mass casualties, damage, or disruption severely affecting the population, infrastructure, environment, economy, or government functions.” RCW 42.14.010.

If you do not call a session under RCW 42.14.030, the same statute requires the legislature to convene “automatically” and “as expeditiously as practicable.”

To begin making the appropriate preparations, we respectfully request to know if you will call a special session of the legislature as directed by chapter 42.14 RCW.

If so, when?

If not, why?

Please let us know how you plan to proceed.

Sincerely,

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