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I am a registered voter in Kitsap County of Washington State (my home state), not Latah County of Idaho (where I am attending school). I will be doing this challenge for candidates in Kitsap County and Washington State.

The first candidate I researched was Maria Cantwell. She prefers the Democratic Party and is running for U.S. senator. She has held the position of U.S. Senator since 2001 in addition to serving in the House from 1993-1995 and the Washington State Legislature from 1987-1993.

Senator Cantwell believes that it is important to protect Washington State's environment and natural areas. In order to enforce this, she has fought to stop the tripling of national park fees, protected Washington's coasts from offshore drilling, protected Washington's public lands from being sold for development, and supported renewable energy sources over fossil fuels. I support her actions towards and beliefs about the environment because I also believe that the environment of not only the United States, but the rest of the world, should be kept as close to its natural state as possible.

Senator Cantwell also supports the agricultural communities of Washington State. She fights for policies that support farming and ranching families competing in international markets, works to expand the Market Access Program and crop insurance, fights for agricultural research funding, expanded research and development funding for specialty crops, added peas and lentils to national school lunch program, backs the National Clean Plant Network, supports funding for Washington State University's agriculture extension network, conservation programs, and rural development programs, protects against unfair trading practices, and helps Washington growers

hold trading partners accountable. I support her actions in the agricultural sector, but I feel that I may not be able to provide as relevant an opinion as actual Washington farmers on her approach to these issues.

The second candidate I researched was Susan Hutchison. She prefers the Republican Party and is also running for Senate. Her elected experience consists of being the chairman of the Washington State Republican Party from 2013-18 and winner of the 2009 County Executive Primary.

Mrs. Hutchison did not have a section for reviewing her stance on environmental issues on her website. In 2009, she stated that global warming was not as important as public safety and budget issues. She did say that she is worried about environmental issues, but at that point she wanted to take a more long-term approach to environmental issues. I do not agree with this position because environmental issues need to be addressed immediately if we have any hope of fighting climate change. If we do not fight for sustainability now, soon there will be no more sustainable world to stand for.

Mrs. Hutchison did have a section on her website about her stance on agriculture. Although less specific about her hopes and actions than Senator Cantwell, Mrs. Hutchison does state that she will support federal policies for their success and protect property and water rights from “burdensome Federal regulations”. I do not support her entirely on this position. While I believe that it is important to support farmers, I also believe that it is important to protect the environment by enforcing federal regulations while doing so. This is important because if we do not support our farming communities, we will eventually not have anyone willing to feed us. However, we need to support farming communities and the environment simultaneously so that our farmers have the capability to feed themselves, us, and the rest of the world.