

Draft Climate Change Resolution
Office of Senator Dianne Feinstein
February 22, 2019

To establish the policy of the United States with respect to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

- (1) the climate is changing as a result of human activities, primarily the combustion of fossil fuels;
- (2) the changes in climate projected in the coming decades threaten rapid, widespread, concurrent, and long-lasting increases in heat waves, wildfire, disease, drought, crop failure, sea level rise from loss of glaciers and collapse of ice sheets, ocean acidification, mass extinction and collapse of food chains, mass population migrations, and human conflict;
- (3) changes in climate are already evident in that, since the beginning of the 20th century, the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide has increased by more than one-third, global average temperatures have increased by more than a full degree Fahrenheit, sea levels have risen by more than eight inches, the acidity of surface ocean water has increased by approximately 30 percent, the annual loss of land ice from Antarctica and Greenland has accelerated to a pace of more than 400 gigatons per year, and in that the drought in California from 2011 to 2017 was likely made 15 to 20 percent more intense by global warming, the rainfall in Texas during Hurricane Harvey in 2017 was likely increased 15 to 19 percent due to climate change, and the area burned by wildfire in the Western United States between 1984 and 2015 was doubled due to climate change, among other indications;
- (4) the scientific community has warned policymakers and the public of these threats for decades with increasing certainty and specificity, including in a Report of the President's Science Advisory Committee in November 1965; five Assessment Reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in March 1990, June 1996, October 2001, September 2007, and November 2014; four National Climate Assessment Reports of the United States Global Change Research Program in November 2000, June 2009, May 2014, and November 2018; and in the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018, among other warnings.

SECTION 2. POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States that—

- (1) The United States shall reduce net greenhouse gas emissions to zero as soon as possible and by no later than 2050, including by:
 - (A) instituting a price on carbon that increases over time, impels the cooperation of foreign nations, and uses revenues to defray household costs and spur new zero-emission investments;
 - (B) accelerating the pace of research and development to reduce the worldwide costs of technologies that facilitate the reduction of net greenhouse gas emissions to zero;
 - (C) managing land use decisions to avoid unnecessary new demand for energy;
 - (D) completing the transition to zero-emission electricity sources, to electric-drive surface transportation systems, and to efficient systems for the transmission, distribution, and storage of electricity;
 - (E) rapidly eliminating all avoidable emissions from industry, commercial buildings, residential buildings, aviation, shipping, and agriculture, including through improved energy efficiency, generation of power from waste heat, substitutes for hydrofluorocarbons, alternative processes for cement and steel production, anaerobic digestion, and transitioning from fossil fuels to carbon neutral synthetic fuels, biofuels, and electricity;
 - (F) maximizing the removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, including through reforestation, improved forest and agricultural soils management, bio-energy power generation with carbon capture and sequestration, carbon mineralization, and the direct air capture of greenhouse gases;
 - (G) recommitting to emissions reduction policies that have already been prepared under existing law, including:
 - (i) remaining a party to the Paris Climate Agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which entered into force on November 4, 2016 with a commitment from the United States to reduce domestic greenhouse gas emissions by 26 to 28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025;
 - (ii) maintaining the coordinated national program of fuel economy and vehicle emission standards that are currently on course to exceed 50 miles per gallons for new automobiles and trucks by model year 2025, consistent with the standards published by the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration on October 15, 2012 at 77 FR 62624, pursuant to the Clean Air Act and the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, as amended by the Ten-in-Ten Fuel Economy Act;
 - (iii) restoring the Clean Power Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector to 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030, as published by the

Environmental Protection Agency on October 23, 2015 at 80 FR 64661, pursuant to section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act;

- (iv) restoring the new source performance standards for greenhouse gas emissions from new, modified, and reconstructed power plants as published by the Environmental Protection Agency on October 23, 2015 at 80 FR 64509, pursuant to section 111(b) of the Clean Air Act;
 - (v) resuming the development of energy efficiency standards by the Department of Energy for ceiling fans, walk-in coolers and freezers, uninterruptible power supplies, portable air conditioners, boilers, residential central air conditioners, heat pumps, light bulbs, and other appliances and equipment pursuant to Title 42 of the United States Code, Chapter 77, Subchapter III;
 - (vi) ratifying the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol to phase out hydrofluorocarbons as agreed to on October 15, 2016;
 - (vii) maintaining the methane emission standards for new, reconstructed, and modified oil and gas sector sources as published by the Environmental Protection Agency on June 3, 2016 at 81 FR 35824;
 - (viii) restoring the Waste Prevention Rule to reduce the venting and flaring of methane on public lands as published by the Bureau of Land Management on November 18, 2016 at 81 FR 83008;
 - (ix) reinstating the Interagency Working Group on the Social Cost of Carbon to maintain economic estimates of the social marginal damage of greenhouse gas emissions for use in regulatory cost-benefit analyses, building on the approach employed prior to March 2017;
- (2) The United States shall prepare to adapt to the changes in climate that cannot be avoided, including by:
- (A) rebuilding infrastructure to be more resilient to extreme weather;
 - (B) fortifying coastal communities against sea level rise and increased storm surge or else aiding relocation efforts;
 - (C) identifying alternative supplies of drinking water for communities that depend on receding glaciers, increasingly unreliable snowpack and precipitation, or aquifers that will be depleted by increasing drought;
 - (D) developing crops and agricultural practices that will maintain a reliable supply of food for the global population, including preparation for rapid shifts in crop growth zones, variations in nutritional quality, and losses due to extreme weather;

- (E) developing conservation practices and genetic catalogs to minimize the biodiversity permanently lost to mass extinction, including preparation for rapid shifts in habitats and worldwide changes in ocean acidity;
 - (F) preparing the public health system for greater risks of vector-borne diseases, asthma, heat stroke, and other health hazards;
 - (G) instituting an international framework for mutual aid in pre-disaster mitigation, post-disaster relief, and the accommodation of dislocated populations;
 - (H) planning for the economic, geographic, demographic, and strategic implications of a navigable arctic ocean;
- (3) The United States shall ensure a just and equitable transition for all communities, including by:
- (A) guaranteeing pensions for workers in the coal, oil, and gas industry and providing meaningful training for new economic opportunities within their own communities;
 - (B) ensuring that the infrastructure investments required to mitigate and adapt to climate change will offer good, high-wage jobs in the United States;
 - (C) prioritizing the deployment of zero-emission technologies in communities that suffer localized pollution from sources that also emit greenhouse gases;
 - (D) respecting the needs and wisdom of local communities in planning infrastructure changes, especially communities that have historically been marginalized or oppressed, including indigenous peoples, communities of color, migrant communities, deindustrialized communities, depopulated rural communities, the poor, low-income workers, women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with disabilities, and youth;
 - (E) minimizing the extent and speed of climate change, which will initially harm the most vulnerable individuals and communities disproportionately and will eventually imperil all society.