



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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CHAIRMAN
House Committee on:
Global Warming and Climate Change

RESOLUTION:

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ADOPT LEGISLATION THAT PROMOTES JOBS AND INNOVATIVE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT, HEIGHTENS NATIONAL ENERGY AND ECONOMIC SECURITY, POSITIONS THE UNITED STATES TO BE AN INTERNATIONAL LEADER IN THE FIELD OF CLEAN ENERGY, AND ADDRESSES THE CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE WITHOUT PREEMPTING STATES' RIGHTS TO CONTROL EMISSIONS AND TO PROMOTE RENEWABLE ENERGY.

WHEREAS, THERE IS A STRONG CONSENSUS FROM THE WORLD'S CLIMATE SCIENTISTS THAT GREENHOUSE GASES ARE CAUSING THE EARTH'S TEMPERATURE TO RISE, RESULTING IN GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE; AND

WHEREAS, THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE POSE A REAL AND PRESENT THREAT TO OUR NATION'S ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMY, HEALTH, AGRICULTURE, AND NATIONAL SECURITY; AND

WHEREAS, THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE INCLUDE THE INCREASE OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL INSTABILITY IN POORER REGIONS OF THE WORLD, PRESENTING POTENTIAL SECURITY THREATS FOR THE UNITED STATES; AND

WHEREAS, THE UNITED STATES' DEPENDENCE ON FOSSIL FUELS NEGATIVELY IMPACTS THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND WEAKENS THE NATION'S ECONOMY AND SECURITY; AND

WHEREAS, THE UNITED STATES CURRENTLY SPENDS APPROXIMATELY ONE BILLION DOLLARS A DAY TO IMPORT OIL, AND BY 2030 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ESTIMATES THAT, WITHOUT COMPREHENSIVE CLEAN ENERGY LEGISLATION, THE COUNTRY'S RELIANCE ON FOREIGN OIL COULD COST EIGHT AND ONE-HALF TRILLION DOLLARS; AND



WHEREAS, THERE IS WORLDWIDE COMPETITION FOR CLEAN ENERGY DEVELOPMENT WITH MANY OTHER COUNTRIES ALREADY LEADING THE WAY. A COMPREHENSIVE FEDERAL CLEAN ENERGY JOBS AND CLIMATE LEGISLATION CAN STIMULATE THE UNITED STATES' EFFORTS TO DEVELOP INNOVATIVE CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY AND JOBS TO COMPETE IN THE GLOBAL MARKETPLACE; AND

WHEREAS, CLEAN ENERGY JOBS ARE GROWING AT A RATE 250% FASTER THAN THE REST OF THE ECONOMY; AND

WHEREAS, THE USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY PROMOTES ENERGY INDEPENDENCE, CREATES DOMESTIC JOBS THAT CANNOT BE OUTSOURCED, AND PRESERVES NATURAL RESOURCES; AND

WHEREAS, THOUSANDS OF BUSINESSES HAVE JOINED TOGETHER CALLING FOR COMPREHENSIVE FEDERAL CLEAN ENERGY LEGISLATION, INCLUDING AMONG OTHERS MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CLIMATE ACTION PARTNERSHIP AND THE CLEAN ECONOMY NETWORK; AND

WHEREAS, THE UNITED STATES CONCURRENTLY HAS BEFORE IT FOR CONSIDERATION THE AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY AND SECURITY ACT, HR 2454, ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON JUNE 26, 2009, AND THE CLEAN ENERGY JOBS AND AMERICAN POWER ACT, S 1733, THAT PROMOTE CLEAN ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND USE, REDUCE POLLUTION, CURB GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS; AND LIMIT DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL AND CREATE ECONOMIC GROWTH; AND

WHEREAS, UNITED STATES SENATORS JOHN KERRY AND LINDSEY GRAHAM CO-AUTHORED AN EDITORIAL OUTLINING A BI-PARTISAN APPROACH TO MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE; AND

WHEREAS, TEN NORTHEASTERN AND MID-ATLANTIC STATES, INCLUDING MASSACHUSETTS, HAVE ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT TO LIMIT GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY CAPPING CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS FROM THE ELECTRICITY SECTOR AND TO REDUCE EMISSIONS BY TEN PER CENT BY 2018; AND

WHEREAS, MANY STATES, INCLUDING MASSACHUSETTS, HAVE INCREASED THEIR PERCENTAGE ELECTRICITY GENERATED FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES SUCH AS WIND, SOLAR AND WAVE ENERGY, WHICH HAS LED TO SIGNIFICANT JOB GROWTH IN THE CLEAN ENERGY SECTOR OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY; AND

WHEREAS, MASSACHUSETTS ADOPTED THE GLOBAL WARMING SOLUTIONS ACT, SETTING UP AN AMBITIOUS AND COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY BETWEEN TEN

TO FIFTEEN PER CENT BELOW THE 1990 LEVELS BY 2020, AND BY EIGHTY PER CENT BY 2050; AND

WHEREAS, MASSACHUSETTS ADOPTED THE OCEAN MANAGEMENT ACT, CREATING A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO PROTECT OUR OCEANS AND PROVIDE ZONING FOR RESPONSIBLY-SITED COMMERCIAL USES; AND

WHEREAS, MASSACHUSETTS ADOPTED THE GREEN COMMUNITIES ACT, CREATING A DRASTIC EXPANSION IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CREATING A GREEN COMMUNITIES PROGRAM, PROVIDING FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO MUNICIPALITIES IN REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND PROMOTING RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT; AND

WHEREAS, MASSACHUSETTS ADOPTED THE GREEN JOBS ACT, ESTABLISHING AN ALTERNATIVE AND CLEAN ENERGY INVESTMENT TRUST FUND TO HELP THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOP RENEWABLE ENERGY AND TRAIN ITS WORKFORCE IN GREEN JOBS; AND

WHEREAS, MASSACHUSETTS ADOPTED THE CLEAN ENERGY BIOFUELS ACT, REDUCING EMISSIONS IN THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR BY GIVING TAX INCENTIVES FOR NON-CORN BASED GASOLINE ALTERNATIVES; AND

WHEREAS, MANY STATES, LIKE MASSACHUSETTS, HAVE DEMONSTRATED LEADERSHIP IN MOVING TO A GREEN ECONOMY, RESULTING IN A PATCHWORK OF EMISSIONS STANDARDS, ENERGY EFFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS, AND REGULATIONS. A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLEAN ENERGY WILL CREATE A CONSISTENT REGULATORY SCHEME THAT WILL MOVE THE ENTIRE NATION DEVELOPING A CLEAN ENERGY SECTOR; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS PASS LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS THE CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE, PROTECTS NATIONAL ENERGY AND ECONOMIC SECURITY, PROMOTES JOB DEVELOPMENT AND REDUCES GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE NATIONAL LEGISLATION INCLUDE PROVISIONS TO PROTECT LOW AND MODERATE INCOME AMERICANS FROM INCREASED ENERGY COSTS; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE NATIONAL LEGISLATION INCLUDE SUPPORT FOR ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY INCLUDING WIND, SOLAR AND WAVE ENERGY; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE NATIONAL LEGISLATION INCLUDE PROVISIONS TO PREPARE FOR THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE NATION'S INFRASTRUCTURE, NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE NATIONAL LEGISLATION DOES NOT PREEMPT MORE RESTRICTIVE STATE LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS TO CONTROL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, ENCOURAGE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND ENCOURAGE RENEWABLE ENERGY; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THESE RESOLUTIONS BE FORWARDED BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.