
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS 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.

1 WHEREAS, the United States currently spends approximately
2 \$1,000,000,000 a day to import oil, and the United States
3 Department of Energy estimates that by 2030, without
4 comprehensive clean energy legislation, the country's reliance
5 on foreign oil could cost \$8,500,000,000,000; and
6

7 WHEREAS, under the United States' current energy policy,
8 American wealth is being transferred to nations that are rich
9 with oil; however, many of those nations are politically
10 unstable or unfriendly to the United States; and
11

12 WHEREAS, the effects of climate change increase political
13 and social instability in poorer regions of the world, thus
14 presenting potential security challenges for the United States;
15 and
16

17 WHEREAS, clean energy jobs are growing at a rate of two
18 hundred fifty per cent faster than the rest of the economy; and
19

20 WHEREAS, the United States Energy Information
21 Administration projects clean energy job growth of up to two
22 million new jobs resulting from comprehensive clean energy
23 legislation; and
24

25 WHEREAS, without comprehensive clean energy legislation,
26 America will face significant global competition for clean
27 energy development that could weaken the United States economy
28 and threaten American innovation; and



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43

WHEREAS, thousands of businesses have joined together to call for comprehensive federal clean energy legislation including, among others, members of the United States Climate Action Group and the Clean Economy Network; and

WHEREAS, over the past two decades, in the absence of comprehensive federal clean energy legislation, the states have become the true "laboratories of democracy" by advancing clean energy policies; and

WHEREAS, many states have adopted renewable energy standards and goals that require a significant percentage of a state's electricity to be generated from non-fossil fuel renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, wave, hydropower, biomass, and biofuels, which have led to significant job growth in the clean energy sector of the national economy; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Hawaii adopted the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative which supports and encourages the rapid development of renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, wave energy is a potent and readily available form of clean energy for Hawaii that has an immense amount of power potential to supply clean, emission-free, baseload electricity; and

WHEREAS, the generation of electricity through the use of renewable energy presents opportunities to promote energy self-sufficiency, create jobs and economic benefits, preserve natural resources, and improve the environment; and

WHEREAS, the United States' dependence on fossil fuels weakens the nation's economy, threatens its national security, and creates negative impacts on the environment; and

WHEREAS, high oil prices reduce the purchasing power of American consumers, spur inflation, and boost the prices of basic goods and services; and

WHEREAS, studies show that a majority of voters see climate change as a real, immediate, and serious threat; believe that efforts to reduce greenhouse gases will create jobs; favor

1 action to reduce carbon emissions; and support the key elements
2 of the American Clean Energy and Security Act; and
3

4 WHEREAS, a national statutory framework for clean energy
5 will provide a predictable regulatory framework that will spur
6 innovation and discovery in the clean energy sector; and
7

8 WHEREAS, in the absence of congressional action, the
9 Environmental Protection Agency has announced its intention to
10 regulate greenhouse gas emissions through administrative rules
11 rather than legislation; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives passed
14 the American Clean Energy and Security Act on June 26, 2009, on
15 a bipartisan vote, and bipartisan members of the United States
16 Senate are currently considering and drafting the Clean Energy
17 Jobs and American Power Act; and
18

19 WHEREAS, Congress has the historic opportunity to enact
20 comprehensive clean energy jobs and climate legislation that
21 will strengthen our national security, create clean energy jobs,
22 and reduce pollution; now, therefore,
23

24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
25 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
26 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the United States Congress
27 is urged to pass comprehensive clean energy, jobs, and climate
28 change legislation; and
29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Congress is
31 urged to include in legislation:
32

- 33 (1) A unified framework for reducing greenhouse gas
34 emissions;
35
36 (2) Protection for low and moderate income Americans from
37 increased energy costs;
38
39 (3) Substantial investments in energy efficiency; and
40
41 (4) Support for alternative sources of energy including
42 wind, solar, wave, hydroelectricity, and bio-fuels;
43 and
44



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Congress is
2 urged to pass national clean energy and climate change
3 legislation that does not preempt state legislative efforts to
4 control carbon emissions and to advance clean energy
5 innovations; and
6

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
9 United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of
10 Representatives, and the members of Hawaii's congressional
11 delegation.

