

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF CONCORD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

RESOLUTION

*RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS
POLLUTION UNDER THE CLEAN AIR ACT*

- WHEREAS** according to the National Aeronautic and Space Administration, the decade from 2000 to 2010 was the warmest in recent historical climate record; and
- WHEREAS** according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the current level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is approximately 392 parts per million (ppm); and
- WHEREAS** scientists from leading global and national institutions agree that atmospheric carbon dioxide levels need to be reduced to 350 ppm to sustain life and diversity; and
- WHEREAS** the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determined that greenhouse gas emissions from human activities contribute to warming of the climate, leading to many other changes and impacts around the world—in the atmosphere, on land, and in the oceans, and to people, plants and animals; and
- WHEREAS** according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), extreme weather events, most notably heat waves and precipitation extremes, are striking with increasing frequency, with deadly consequences for people and wildlife; and
- WHEREAS** the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) found that in 2012 there were 11 extreme weather events in the U.S. causing more than \$1 billion in damages and that cost 349 lives; and
- WHEREAS** according to scientists, climate change is affecting food security by negatively impacting the growth and yields of important crops, and according to the U. S. Global Change Research Program, droughts, floods, and changes in snowpack are altering water supplies; and
- WHEREAS** scientists have concluded that by 2100 as many as one in ten species may be on the verge of extinction due to climate change; and
- WHEREAS** according to the IPCC, the world's land-based ice is rapidly melting, threatening water supplies in many regions and raising sea levels, and according to scientists, Arctic summer sea ice extent has decreased to about half what it was several decades ago, and according to the Polar Science Center, an accompanying drastic reduction in sea-ice thickness and volume, which, according to the Center for Biological Diversity and Care for the Wild International, is severely jeopardizing ice-dependent animals; and
- WHEREAS** according to scientists, sea level is rising faster along the U. S. East Coast than it has for at least 2,000 years, and is accelerating in pace, and could rise by one to two meters in this century, threatening millions of Americans with severe flooding; and
- WHEREAS** for four decades, the Clean Air Act has protected the air we breathe through a proven, comprehensive, successful system of pollution controls that save lives and creates economic benefits exceeding its costs by many times; and
- WHEREAS** with the Clean Air Act, air quality in this country has improved significantly since 1970, despite major growth both in our economy and industrial production; and
- WHEREAS** between 1970 and 1990, the six main pollutants covered by the Clean Air Act- particulate matter and ground-level ozone (both of which contribute to smog and asthma), carbon monoxide, lead, sulfur, and nitrogen oxides (the pollutants that cause acid rain)- were reduced by between 47 percent and 93 percent, and airborne lead was virtually eliminated; and
- WHEREAS** the Clean Air Act has produced economic benefits valued at \$2 Trillion or 30 times the cost of regulation; and
- WHEREAS** the U. S. Supreme Court ruled in Massachusetts vs. EPA (2007) that greenhouse gases are

"air pollutants" as defined by the Clean Air Act and the EPA has the authority to regulate them; and

WHEREAS

the Town of Concord is a leader in progressive local climate change programs, is a member of ICLEI, has institutionalized sustainability by chartering a town committee, has committed to 20 percent renewable fuels for its town energy supply, has adopted a stretch energy code in its zoning bylaws, and has made significant energy efficiencies to its town buildings,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that climate change is happening now, human activities are causing it, and we can no longer wait to act; and that we, the Town of Concord Board of Selectmen, do hereby urge the administrator of the EPA, Gina McCarthy, and President Barack Obama to move swiftly to fully employ and enforce the Clean Air Act to reduce carbon in our atmosphere to no more than 350 parts per million.



Mr. J. W. Wend
Steve Ng
Elise G. Hoogstraad

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