

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 106

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the negotiation of an international climate change agreement.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 1997

Mr. GILCHREST (for himself, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. EHLERS, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. PORTER, Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, Mr. BOEHLERT, Ms. RIVERS, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. BROWN of California, Mrs. Morella, and Mr. MILLER of California) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the negotiation of an international climate change agreement.

Whereas the world's leading climate scientists, through the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), have concluded "that the balance of evidence suggests a discernible human influence on global climate";

Whereas the IPCC and other scientific bodies have warned that continued uncontrolled emissions of greenhouse gases could cause damage to our public health, economy, and environment due to (1) shifts in agricultural productivity that could threaten local and regional food supplies; (2) an intensified hydrological cycle resulting in regional increases in extreme precipitation, flooding, and

droughts; (3) severe declines in the biological diversity of our forests, fisheries, wildlife, and water resources due to shifts in climate; and (4) rise in sea level which could devastate coastal areas through destruction of sensitive beaches, flooding of barrier islands, coastal wetlands and farmland, increased damage from storm tides, and salt-water intrusion into rivers and other freshwater bodies;

Whereas the IPCC estimates that carbon dioxide released now will remain in the atmosphere for a century or more;

Whereas the National Academy of Sciences has found that the efficiency of practically every end use of energy can be improved and that the United States could reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by up to 40 percent of 1990 levels at low cost or net savings;

Whereas research and development has led to many technologies and policy options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in all sectors, including vehicles, power plants, buildings, and industry, which leading economists have found can improve United States productivity and entail a net economic benefit;

Whereas increased reliance on advanced technologies will produce additional benefits for the United States, such as expansion of our role as a leading exporter of renewable energy technologies and reduction in our dependency on foreign oil and balance of trade deficit;

Whereas in 1992 the Bush Administration committed to returning United States greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000 using nonbinding, voluntary mechanisms, yet the Energy Information Administration estimates actual United States emissions will be 15 percent above 1990 levels in the year 2000; and

Whereas climate change is an issue of global significance and can be addressed adequately only through multilateral action: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress of the
3 United States that the United States should take all nec-
4 essary steps, both domestically and internationally, to pro-
5 tect the Earth's climate from dangerous climate change.
6 The United States should take a leadership role in nego-
7 tiating an international climate change agreement that—

8 (1) contains legally binding targets and time-
9 tables beginning in 2005 for reducing greenhouse
10 gas emissions substantially below 1990 levels;

11 (2) provides for participation by developing na-
12 tions; and

13 (3) is fair, enforceable, and provides options for
14 nations to achieve necessary greenhouse gas reduc-
15 tions in a cost-effective manner.

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