
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO AGREE TO AN ECONOMY-WIDE REDUCTION IN ITS GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND TO COMMIT THE UNITED STATES TO A BINDING INTERNATIONAL TREATY THAT WOULD RESULT IN A SIGNIFICANT AND RAPID GLOBAL REDUCTION IN ATMOSPHERIC GREENHOUSE GAS CONCENTRATION.

1 WHEREAS, the White House is convening a Major Economies
2 Meeting on Energy Security and Climate Change with seventeen
3 invited countries at the Center for Cultural and Technical
4 Interchange Between East and West, Inc. (East-West Center) on
5 the campus of the University of Hawaii at Manoa on January 30
6 and 31, 2008, to discuss potential international agreements on
7 global climate change; and

8
9 WHEREAS, for more than half a century, researchers have
10 used atmospheric samples taken at the Mauna Loa Observatory on
11 the island of Hawaii to track a steady annual increase in the
12 concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and have
13 concluded that concentrations are now higher than they have been
14 in the past eight hundred thousand years; and

15
16 WHEREAS, scientific consensus links the anthropogenic
17 increase in greenhouse gases to global climate change; and

18
19 WHEREAS, the Fourth Assessment Report of the
20 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicates that global
21 emissions of greenhouse gases need to peak in the next ten to
22 fifteen years and be reduced to levels well below half those in
23 2000 by the middle of this century in order to stabilize
24 greenhouse gases concentrations in the atmosphere at the lowest
25 levels assessed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
26 to date in its scenarios; and

27
28 WHEREAS, achieving the lowest levels assessed by the
29 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to date and its



1 corresponding potential damage limitation would require
2 developed countries as a group to reduce emissions in a range of
3 twenty-five to forty per cent below 1990 levels by 2020; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and
6 the signatory nations of the United Nations Framework Convention
7 on Climate Change have recognized the special dangers of climate
8 change to island states, territories, and nations; and
9

10 WHEREAS, global climate change is causing rapid melting of
11 ice at both the north and south polar regions, which, in
12 conjunction with thermal expansion due to warmer water
13 temperatures, is leading to a rapid rise in sea level; and
14

15 WHEREAS, University of Hawaii experts have demonstrated
16 that a one meter rise in sea level would inundate much of
17 Hawaii's coastline, including the world renowned Waikiki resort
18 area, the Honolulu International Airport's reef runway, the
19 majority of Hawaii's wastewater treatment facilities, many
20 historic sites, and many populated areas, including lands up to
21 a mile away from the existing shoreline in parts of Honolulu;
22 and
23

24 WHEREAS, global climate change also threatens Hawaii with
25 stronger hurricanes, prolonged drought, shifting weather
26 patterns, warmer temperatures, shifting micro-climates,
27 increased spread of invasive species, and saltwater intrusion
28 into its aquifers; and
29

30 WHEREAS, increased atmospheric carbon dioxide
31 concentrations foster greater carbon dioxide uptake by the
32 world's oceans, leading to ocean acidification and the resultant
33 decreases in reef health and decreases in survival of ocean life
34 that rely on calcium carbonate shells; and
35

36 WHEREAS, Hawaii is doing its part to reduce its
37 contribution to global climate change by adopting progressive
38 energy policies that promote the use of clean energy
39 technologies such as wind, solar, wave, and biomass energy; and
40



Cindy Evans
~~[Signature]~~
~~Cindy~~
~~[Signature]~~
~~[Signature]~~
~~[Signature]~~

JAN 29 2008

