
SENATE RESOLUTION

AFFIRMING THAT THE CONTINUED PARTICIPATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE TO THE STATE OF HAWAII AND TO THE NATION, REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO REFRAIN FROM WITHDRAWING THE UNITED STATES FROM THE PARIS AGREEMENT, AND REQUESTING THAT THE MAJORITY LEADER OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TAKE ALL ACTION NECESSARY TO BLOCK THE PRESIDENT'S WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED STATES FROM THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

1 WHEREAS, in December 2015, representatives of one hundred
2 ninety-seven nations who are parties to the United Nation's
3 Framework Convention on Climate Change (Convention) completed a
4 proposed agreement, known as the Paris Agreement, to take
5 comprehensive action to drastically reduce greenhouse gas
6 emissions, with the following principal provisions:

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8 (1) Long-term temperature goal: the agreement reaffirms
9 the goal of limiting global mean temperature increase
10 to well below two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial
11 levels, while pursuing efforts to limit the increase
12 to 1.5 degrees Celsius;

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14 (2) Global peaking and "climate neutrality": to achieve
15 the temperature goal, parties will strive to reach
16 global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as
17 possible, recognizing peaking will take longer for
18 developing country parties, so as to achieve a balance
19 (net zero emissions) between anthropogenic emissions
20 by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases
21 in the second half of the century;

22
23 (3) Mitigation: the agreement establishes binding
24 commitments by all parties to prepare, communicate,
25 and maintain a nationally determined contribution; to
26 pursue domestic measures to achieve them; and to
27 communicate revised, higher nationally determined
28 contributions every five years;

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1 (4) Adaptation: the agreement establishes a global goal
2 for adaptation, including enhancing adaptive capacity,
3 strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to
4 climate change in the context of the temperature goal;
5 and
6

7 (5) Financial support: the Paris Agreement reaffirms the
8 obligations of developed countries to support the
9 efforts of developing country parties to build clean,
10 climate resilient futures, while for the first time
11 encouraging voluntary contributions by other parties;
12 and
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14 WHEREAS, on November 4, 2016, the Paris Agreement took
15 effect, after having been ratified by at least fifty-five
16 parties to the Convention, including the United States,
17 accounting in total for at least an estimated fifty-five percent
18 of the total global greenhouse gas emissions. As of 2020, one
19 hundred eighty-nine of the nations who are parties to the
20 Convention have ratified the Paris Agreement; and
21

22 WHEREAS, in 2017, the Hawaii State Legislature enacted
23 Act 32, Session Laws 2017, which among other things created the
24 Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission and
25 committed the State to contribute to the achievement of the
26 Paris Agreement goals; and
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28 WHEREAS, in June, 2017, President Donald Trump announced
29 his intention for the United States to withdraw from the Paris
30 Agreement; and on November 4, 2019, U.S. Secretary of State
31 Michael Pompeo gave notice to the Convention of the intent of
32 the United States to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, with the
33 withdrawal to become effective on November 4, 2020 (the day
34 after the 2020 presidential election); and
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36 WHEREAS, a U.S. withdrawal is likely to have a serious
37 detrimental impact on the future implementation of the Paris
38 Agreement, which relies on the voluntary commitments of its
39 member nations; and under the approach, as taken by the Paris
40 Agreement, major developing nations, such as China - the world's
41 largest greenhouse gas emitter - and India, were induced for the
42 first time to make commitments to reduce greenhouse gas



1 emissions. The prospective withdrawal of the United States, the
2 world's second largest emitter, threatens to reverse the initial
3 momentum under the Paris Agreement and to embolden other nations
4 to renounce or delay their own commitments; now, therefore,
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
7 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the
8 Legislature affirms that the continued participation of the
9 United States in the Paris Agreement is of paramount importance
10 to the State of Hawaii, to the nation, and the world; and
11

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the United
13 States shall be respectfully requested, through the transmittal
14 of a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution, to refrain
15 from withdrawing from the Paris Agreement and to instead commit
16 the United States to good faith efforts to meet its obligations
17 under the Paris Agreement; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Majority Leader of the U.S.
20 Senate and the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives be
21 requested, through the transmittal of a certified copy of this
22 Concurrent Resolution, to take all action necessary to block the
23 President's intended withdrawal of the United States from the
24 Paris Agreement; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
27 Resolution be transmitted to the Office of the President of the
28 United States, the Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate, the
29 Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Congressional
30 Delegation of the State of Hawaii, the Governor, and each member
31 of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
32 Commission.
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S.R. NO. 164

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