



HR0490

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1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Global climate change refers to the recent and
3 ongoing rise in global average temperature near Earth's
4 surface, caused mostly by increasing concentrations of
5 greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, resulting in changing
6 global climate patterns; and

7 WHEREAS, The scientific community overwhelmingly agrees
8 that the main cause of the current global warming trend is
9 human expansion of greenhouse gasses, which causes warming that
10 results when the atmosphere traps heat radiating from Earth
11 toward space; and

12 WHEREAS, Effects of global climate change, each of which we
13 are already experiencing, include: hotter than normal
14 temperatures, drought, insect outbreaks, an increasing number
15 of wildfires and other natural disasters, declining water
16 supplies, reduced agricultural yields, health impacts in
17 cities due to excessive heat, and flooding and erosion in
18 coastal areas; and

19 WHEREAS, In order to mitigate the effects of global
20 warming, in 2015, 195 nations entered into the Paris Climate
21 Agreement, based upon the United Nation's Framework Convention
22 on Climate Change, which, for the first time, brought all

1 nations into a common cause to undertake ambitious efforts to
2 combat climate change and adapt to its effects; as such, the
3 Paris Climate Agreement chartered a new course in the global
4 climate effort; and

5 WHEREAS, The Paris Agreement's central aim is to strengthen
6 the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping
7 a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees
8 Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to
9 limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees
10 Celsius; additionally, the agreement aims to strengthen the
11 ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate
12 change; and

13 WHEREAS, On June 1, 2017, President Trump announced that
14 the United States would be exiting the Paris Climate Agreement,
15 joining Syria and Nicaragua as the only two countries not party
16 to the Agreement; and

17 WHEREAS, President Trump's decision to abandon the
18 agreement for environmental action signed by 195 nations is a
19 remarkable rebuke to heads of state, climate activists,
20 corporate executives, and most importantly, American citizens
21 across the nation; the Paris Agreement was intended to bind the
22 world community into battling rising temperatures in concert,
23 and the departure of the Earth's second-largest polluter is a

1 major setback; and

2 WHEREAS, According to a Yale University Study conducted in
3 2016, over 50% of Americans in each state believe in the
4 effects of global warming, including 73% of people in the State
5 of Illinois; according to the same study, an estimated 65% of
6 people in Illinois support the Paris Climate Agreement; and

7 WHEREAS, In response to President Trump's announcement to
8 exit the Paris Climate Agreement, nine states, including,
9 California, New York, Massachusetts, Washington, Connecticut,
10 Rhode Island, Vermont, Oregon, and Hawaii have joined to form
11 the United States Climate Alliance, in order to implement the
12 provisions of the Paris Climate Agreement; furthermore, the
13 United States Climate Alliance is being joined at the city
14 level by 187 mayors of major cities, including Los Angeles,
15 Boston, New York, and Chicago; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
17 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
18 urge Governor Rauner to immediately join the nine other states
19 in the United States Climate Alliance; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That as governor of a state that supports the
21 Paris Climate Agreement by an overwhelming majority of 65%, we
22 request that Governor Rauner join with both Democratic and

1 Republican governors from the aforementioned states, to stand
2 up for the people of the State of Illinois and join the United
3 States Climate Alliance; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the State of Illinois is urged to develop a
5 plan for the State to achieve 100% clean energy by 2045; it
6 should include the lowest cost measures available to meet the
7 energy needs of the State; low income citizens should be
8 included in the benefits derived, including quality careers
9 adhering to local source hiring for workers displaced by fossil
10 fuel reduction, equitable access through ownership and
11 benefits to new opportunity for historically marginalized
12 communities, and affordable clean energy options; and be it
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
15 delivered to Governor Rauner, United States Senator Richard
16 Durbin, United States Senator Tammy Duckworth, and the entire
17 Illinois Congressional Delegation.