



HR0690

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, All communities have a right to live free from
3 exposure to dangerous toxic pollution in their soil as well as
4 in the air they breathe, the food they eat, and the water they
5 drink; and

6 WHEREAS, Persistent racial and economic inequalities, and
7 the forces that cause them, embedded throughout our society
8 have concentrated toxic polluters near and within communities
9 of color, tribal communities, and low-income communities; and

10 WHEREAS, These underlying social forces, including
11 persistent and systematic racial discrimination and economic
12 inequality, have created disproportionately high environmental
13 and public health risks in these areas relative to other
14 neighborhoods; and

15 WHEREAS, The devastating and costly consequences of
16 climate change threaten the health, safety, and livelihoods of
17 people across the country, and generations of economic and
18 social injustice have put communities on the front lines of
19 climate change effects; and

20 WHEREAS, History shows that environmental regulation does
21 not necessarily mean healthy environments for all communities,

1 and many communities suffer from the cumulative effects of
2 multiple pollution sources; and

3 WHEREAS, Climate policy language that addresses climate
4 pollution must not abandon or diminish the important goal of
5 reducing toxic pollution in all its forms; and

6 WHEREAS, The shift to a sustainable, just, and equitable
7 energy future requires innovative forms of investment and
8 governance that distribute the benefits of this transition
9 equitably and justly; and

10 WHEREAS, This includes investing in the development of
11 innovative decentralized models of energy provision, community
12 governance and ownership, incorporation of social and health
13 benefits into energy systems planning, incentivizing the
14 inclusion of equity into future energy investment through
15 public programs, and supporting public and private research and
16 development to include equity considerations in new technology
17 development; and

18 WHEREAS, To ensure access to affordable energy for all,
19 climate policy agendas must significantly reduce domestic
20 energy vulnerability and poverty by addressing the problem of
21 high energy cost burdens; and

1 WHEREAS, To live and prosper in today's society, access to
2 affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy is a basic need in
3 daily life and is fundamental to achieving rights related to
4 health, environmental quality, education, and food and income
5 security; and

6 WHEREAS, To ensure a healthy transportation and goods
7 movement, policies must address how we must build the next
8 century's transportation system to ensure healthy air quality
9 for all communities, and this will require massive investment
10 in affordable, reliable, and environmentally sustainable
11 transportation; and

12 WHEREAS, Climate change events exacerbate existing
13 vulnerabilities and create new risks in our communities, and it
14 is necessary to provide for safe, healthy communities and
15 infrastructure; and

16 WHEREAS, Economic opportunities are lacking in many
17 communities, and as climate change deteriorates air quality,
18 increases vector-borne disease and allergens, and contributes
19 to a host of other public health threats, we must ensure full
20 access to health care for all; and

21 WHEREAS, The continuing increase in wealth inequality
22 plagues many communities across the U.S.; and

1 WHEREAS, The right to return, relocation,
2 anti-displacement, and displacement are all fundamental
3 challenges in many communities today, especially environmental
4 justice communities; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
6 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we believe that no community is to be left behind, and that any
8 climate policy language must address this environmental
9 injustice head-on by prioritizing climate solutions and other
10 policies that are aimed at reducing pollution in these legacy
11 communities at the scale needed to significantly improve their
12 public health and quality of life; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That we believe that climate policy language must
14 provide a healthy climate and air quality goal by reducing
15 greenhouse gas emissions and locally harmful air pollution, and
16 policies must prioritize reducing emissions in low-income
17 areas and communities of color through a suite of policies,
18 including climate mitigation policy; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That we believe that policy goals should be aimed
20 at reducing carbon pollution, should curb locally harmful
21 pollution, and should build resilience to improve the health,
22 safety, and livability of all communities in a climate-changed

1 world; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That we believe that climate solutions must be
3 part of a comprehensive approach to reducing legacy
4 environmental, health, and economic impacts on communities and
5 be designed intentionally to ensure that they do not impose
6 further risks; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That we believe that a shift to an equitable
8 energy future must be based on a inclusive and just economy as
9 well as create high-quality jobs with family-sustaining wages
10 and safe and healthy working conditions, and it must make
11 eliminating the barriers that produce unemployment and
12 underemployment a priority; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That we believe that given the disparities in the
14 housing stock and infrastructure across communities, it is
15 imperative that future energy systems provide affordable
16 energy access that ensures a healthy standard of living that
17 provides for the basic needs of children and families; and be
18 it further

19 RESOLVED, That we believe that transportation planning
20 must ensure affordable transportation that provides for
21 mobility and access to daily activities and services, including
22 jobs, education, health care, affordable housing, and social

1 networks; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That we believe that climate solutions must
3 provide opportunities for localized benefits that enhance the
4 quality of life for all communities, including by improving
5 local air quality, access to healthy food, local economic
6 development, public health, and community vitality; and be it
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That we believe that we must prioritize
9 investments in communities that are the most vulnerable to
10 climate change, including in health monitoring and research to
11 provide rigorous and reliable research on our progress; and be
12 it further

13 RESOLVED, That we believe that addressing the increase in
14 wealth and income inequality that plagues community economic
15 diversification is critical, and that economic development
16 policies should support products and production processes that
17 are low emission and sustainable; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That we believe that relocation, displacement,
19 and the right to recover must ensure that sustainable
20 investments for both mitigation and adaptation do not
21 overburden vulnerable communities, and it is imperative that
22 new investments in resilient infrastructure in communities

1 that have been historically disinvested be a priority; and be
2 it further

3 RESOLVED, That we believe that it is important to ensure
4 that everyone has access to safe, clean, and affordable
5 drinking water and to maintain and protect water as a common
6 resource regardless of the provider; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
8 delivered to the President of the United States, the Vice
9 President of the United States, members of the United States
10 House of Representatives and the United States Senate, and
11 other federal and state government officials and agencies as
12 appropriate.