



THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Introduced by Congressman Earl Blumenauer

With Senator Bernie Sanders and Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Across the planet, we are seeing the impacts of the climate crisis. Communities have rallied around a radical yet simple plan – tell the truth about this crisis and the urgent response needed to address it.

WHAT IS THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY?

The past five years have been the hottest on record. Epic floods and tornadoes are devastating the Midwest. Greenland's ice sheet is melting at a record rate. Droughts and wildfires are quickly displacing families from the only place they have ever called home. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has predicted that by 2030, the planet could warm by 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels, leading to significant sea level rise, extraordinary biodiversity loss, and intensifying extreme weather events.

This is an emergency. It is time for the United States Congress to act like it.

WHY DO WE NEED TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY?

By declaring an emergency, Congress is acknowledging that we need all hands on deck to counter this catastrophe. Already more than four countries and 740 local governments in sixteen countries have recognized the climate emergency for what it is. The United States must join them.

WE. MUST. ACT.

The climate crisis severely and urgently impacts the economic and social well-being, health and safety, and national security of the United States. The time is now for Congress to declare a climate emergency and swiftly mobilize federal resources in response to protect the interests of our nation and its people.

THIS RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGES THE TRUTH ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

By acknowledging the climate crisis is an existential emergency similar to the threat posed during WWII, the resolution further calls for aggressive, immediate action to solve this immense challenge. Specifically, the resolution acknowledges:

- Massive, comprehensive, and urgent governmental action is required;
- Halting and reversing the climate emergency will require an economically just and managed phase-out of oil, gas and coal;
- Any action must equitably and actively engage frontline communities, Tribal governments and communities, people of color, and labor unions; and
- The United States stands poised to reap substantial economic, social, and health benefits from a climate mobilization that far outweigh the costs of inaction.

Furthermore, given recent, unconstitutional abuses by President Trump, nothing in this resolution empowers the President to invoke authority under any Act of Congress.

Endorsed by: 350.org * Align NY * Center for Biological Diversity * Climate Mobilization * Food & Water Watch * Foundation for Climate Restoration * Friends of the Earth * Greenpeace * Justice Democrats * Labor Network for Sustainability * Mothers Out Front * Oil Change U.S. * Progressive Democrats of America * Public Citizen * Sunrise Movement