



What They're Saying: The National Climate Emergency Act

Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)

“Scientists and experts are clear, this is a climate emergency and we need to take action. Last Congress, I worked with Oregon environmental activists to draft a climate emergency resolution that captured the urgency of this moment. President Biden has done an outstanding job of prioritizing climate in the first days of his administration, but after years of practiced ignorance from Trump and Congressional republicans, an even larger mobilization is needed. I am glad to work with Rep. Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Sanders again on this effort, which takes our original resolution even further. It’s past time that a climate emergency is declared, and this bill can finally get it done.”

Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT)

“As we face the global crisis of climate change, in addition to other crises we face, it is imperative that the United States lead the world in transforming our energy system away from fossil fuel to energy efficiency and sustainable energy. What we need now is Congressional leadership to stand up to the fossil fuel industry and tell them that their short-term profits are not more important than the future of the planet. Climate change is a national emergency, and I am proud to be introducing this legislation with my House and Senate colleagues.”

Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY)

“We’ve made a lot of progress since we introduced this resolution two years ago, but now we have to meet the moment. We are out of time and excuses. Our country is in crisis and, to address it, we will have to mobilize our social and economic resources on a massive scale. If we want to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past - if we want to ensure that our nation has an equitable economic recovery and prevent yet another life-altering crisis - then we have to start by calling this moment what it is, a national emergency.”

Greenpeace USA

“We’re already in a five-alarm emergency for communities on the frontlines of fossil fuel pollution and the climate crisis. Our government has squandered precious time in the fight for a liveable planet, and now we need legislation like the Climate Emergency Act to kick things into gear. Congress must mobilize in full force to declare a climate emergency then immediately act to end fossil fuel subsidies and reinstate the crude oil export ban. We have the unprecedented opportunity this year to advance climate, racial, and economic justice, and to create millions of union jobs in the process. This historic legislation is just step one. ”

- John Noël, Senior Climate Campaigner, Greenpeace USA.

Center for Biological Diversity

“This bill heeds the sirens calling for urgent climate action and crystallizes the voices of nearly 750 climate, justice, and faith organizations nationwide that have urged President Biden for a climate emergency declaration. By declaring a climate emergency, President Biden will be able



Congressman Earl Blumenauer ■ Third District of Oregon

to redirect military funds to build clean energy systems, marshal private industry for clean technology manufacturing, generate millions of high-quality jobs and finally put an end to dangerous crude oil exports. It's vital for Congress to pass this bill and for President Biden to use the emergency powers vested in him to realize a livable and just planet."

- Jean Su, Energy Justice Director and attorney, Center for Biological Diversity

ALIGN

"This vital legislation addresses the extreme climate emergency our nation is facing. This climate emergency is most acutely seen and felt in frontline communities of color and low-income communities. I applaud co-sponsors Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Bernie Sanders for their leadership in tackling head-on the climate emergency that threatens our lives with greater urgency and ferocity every day. With Democrats in control of Congress, now is the time for bold, ambitious public investment that can create millions of good-paying union jobs in the new green economy. The age of fossil fuel is over. We stand with organizations across the country in calling for immediate passage of this legislation."

- Maritza Silva-Farrell, Executive Director of ALIGN

The Climate Mobilization

"It's time to move beyond the decades of climate denial and incremental progress on climate change in this country. We face a global climate emergency, and Congress must act immediately to address the accelerating impacts of climate devastation in communities across the United States. The Climate Emergency Act is a key next step to implementing a national climate response before it's too late -- by declaring climate change a national emergency, President Biden must use the powers of his office to launch the whole-of-society mobilization we need to ensure a just transition away from fossil fuels, and to build a safe and equitable future for all."

- Laura Berry, Research and Policy Director, The Climate Mobilization

Labor Network for Sustainability

"If there ever was an emergency, it is the threat of climate change. Fortunately, the things we need to do to combat climate change are the very things we need to do to address our crises of jobs, justice, health, and democracy. Declaring an emergency is a commitment to ourselves that we won't wait any longer to do them."

The Sunrise Movement

"We are at a life changing, civilization altering moment in our history, as we face a climate crisis that demands a thunderous voice and a full mobilization of every sector to match its scale and its urgency – all while serving as a great opportunity to build a more just and prosperous country. This bill is a good sign that our leaders are finally understanding what young people and climate activists have been shouting from the rooftops for years – that the fires that burned our homes to rubble, the floods that took our family and friends with them, are a climate emergency, and bold action must be done now to save our humanity and our future."

- Varshini Prakash, Executive Director of the Sunrise Movement



Congressman Earl Blumenauer ■ Third District of Oregon

Oregon State University

“Climate change has arrived and is accelerating faster than many scientists expected, but we have continued to conduct business as usual and have failed to address this crisis,” said Ripple, distinguished professor at Oregon State University and director of the Alliance of World Scientists. The climate emergency legislation introduced by Congressman Blumenauer, Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez, and Senator Sanders supports the science of climate change and is illustrative of the type of urgency needed to address this crisis. We welcome their leadership and call on Congress to act swiftly to reverse course for the sake of future generations.”

- Dr. Ripple, professor of ecology in the College of Forestry at OSU

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

"The climate emergency is not a theory or an inference, it's upon us, and the longer we wait to acknowledge this axiomatic reality the more people and communities will suffer. For environmental justice communities, the climate crisis has been a threat multiplier for decades, exacerbated by the interlinked crises of a global pandemic, rising inequality and racial injustice." He added, "Senator Sanders and Representative Blumenauer are proven climate champions who are sounding an alarm that can no longer be ignored. It's incumbent upon Congress as an equal branch of the people's government to foster initiatives that protect public health and safety, and the planet alike. This imperative piece of legislation does just that and more, we call on Congress to ratify it expeditiously and for the president to sign it into law so that the people's government can get to work for the people and confront the quintessential threat of our time."

- Anthony Karefa Rogers-Wright, Director of Environmental Justice, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

Justice Democrats

“Obstruction, corporate greed, and denial has left us with just 10 years to rapidly transition off fossil fuels and toward a 100% clean and renewable energy economy. There’s no time to waste in declaring this a national emergency and taking swift action to create millions of good-paying union jobs in the process.”

- Alexandra Rojas, Executive Director, Justice Democrats

Progressive Democrats of America

Science tells us unequivocally that in order to stave off the worst effects of anthropogenic climate change, the world must mobilize on a scale not seen before in history. We applaud Rep. Blumenauer and Senator Sanders for the clarity of this legislation in giving proper name to our currently reality, and beginning to call upon and empower the President to act in accordance with his constitutional obligations to lead the nation and the world in an immediate whole-of-society mobilization to restore a safe climate for humanity and the full diversity of species on the planet.

- Alan Minsky and Russell Greene, Progressive Democrats of America