

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 137

Expressing the sense of Congress that the United States is committed to ensuring a safe and healthy climate for future generations, and to creating solutions for restoring the climate.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2018

Mr. RASKIN submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that the United States is committed to ensuring a safe and healthy climate for future generations, and to creating solutions for restoring the climate.

Whereas humanity has a continuing obligation to provide future generations a safe and healthy climate, similar to the climate of a hundred years ago;

Whereas the human species has never before lived with sustained atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels above 300 parts per million (ppm), which were exceeded in 1925;

Whereas current CO₂ levels are already about 410 ppm, and are expected to rise to 450 ppm or higher by 2050, based on current Paris Agreement goals;

Whereas the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has stated that temperatures corresponding to CO₂ levels of 450 ppm or above will lead to grave damage to ecosystems;

Whereas restoring CO₂ to levels of 300 ppm requires removing about 1 trillion tons of CO₂ from the atmosphere, and doing that in 20 to 50 years requires removing 50 gigatons (GT) of CO₂ (which is equal to 50 billion tons) per year from the atmosphere;

Whereas multiple methods capable of CO₂ removal from the atmosphere at 50 GT CO₂ per year have been demonstrated, and annual costs for implementing these methods are expected to be less than 1 to 3 percent of global gross domestic product (GDP);

Whereas if known methods prove to be incapable of removing 50 GT CO₂ per year, then we must develop other methods that will restore a safe and healthy climate for future generations;

Whereas scientists have researched methods for keeping warming below 2° C, but have not yet researched the best methods to remove all excess CO₂, stop sea-level rise, and restore a safe and healthy climate for future generations; and

Whereas declaring a goal of restoring a safe and healthy climate will encourage scientists to research the most effective ways to restore safe CO₂ levels, stop sea-level rise, and restore a safe and healthy climate for future generations: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that the
- 3 United States is committed to ensuring a safe and healthy

- 1 climate for future generations, and to creating solutions
- 2 for restoring the climate.

