

1 Title: Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal.
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4 Whereas the October 2018 report entitled “Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 C” by the
5 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the November 2018 Fourth National
6 Climate Assessment report found that—

7 (1) human activity is the dominant cause of observed climate change
8 over the past century;

9 (2) a changing climate is causing sea levels to rise and an increase in
10 wildfires, severe storms, droughts, and other extreme weather events that
11 threaten human life, healthy communities, and critical infrastructure;

12 (3) global warming at or above 2 degrees Celsius beyond pre-
13 industrialized levels will cause—

14 (A) mass migration from the regions most affected by climate change;

15 (B) more than \$500,000,000,000 in lost annual economic output in the
16 United States by the year 2100;

17 (C) wildfires that, by 2050, will annually burn at least twice as much
18 forest area in the western United States than was typically burned by
19 wildfires in the years preceding 2019;

20 (D) a loss of more than 99 percent of all coral reefs on Earth;

21 (E) more than 350,000,000 more people to be exposed globally to
22 deadly heat stress by 2050; and

23 (F) a risk of damage to \$1,000,000,000,000 of public infrastructure and
24 coastal real estate in the United States; and

25 (4) global temperatures must be kept below 1.5 degrees Celsius above
26 pre-industrialized levels to avoid the most severe impacts of a changing
27 climate, which will require—

28 (A) global reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from human sources
29 of 40 to 60 percent from 2010 levels by 2030; and

30 (B) net-zero global emissions by 2050;

31 Whereas, because the United States has historically been responsible for a disproportionate
32 amount of greenhouse gas emissions, having emitted 20 percent of global greenhouse gas
33 emissions through 2014, and has a high technological capacity, the United States must take
34 a leading role in reducing emissions through economic transformation;

35 Whereas the United States is currently experiencing several related crises, with—

36 (1) life expectancy declining while basic needs, such as clean air, clean
37 water, healthy food, and adequate health care, housing, transportation, and
38 education, are inaccessible to a significant portion of the United States
39 population;

1 (2) a 4-decade trend of wage stagnation, deindustrialization, and anti-
2 labor policies that has led to—

3 (A) hourly wages overall stagnating since the 1970s despite increased
4 worker productivity;

5 (B) the third-worst level of socioeconomic mobility in the developed
6 world before the Great Recession;

7 (C) the erosion of the earning and bargaining power of workers in the
8 United States; and

9 (D) inadequate resources for public sector workers to confront the
10 challenges of climate change at local, State, and Federal levels; and

11 (3) the greatest income inequality since the 1920s, with—

12 (A) the top 1 percent of earners accruing 91 percent of gains in the first
13 few years of economic recovery after the Great Recession;

14 (B) a large racial wealth divide amounting to a difference of 20 times
15 more wealth between the average white family and the average black
16 family; and

17 (C) a gender earnings gap that results in women earning approximately
18 80 percent as much as men, at the median;

19 Whereas climate change, pollution, and environmental destruction have exacerbated systemic
20 racial, regional, social, environmental, and economic injustices (referred to in this preamble
21 as “systemic injustices”) by disproportionately affecting indigenous peoples, communities
22 of color, migrant communities, deindustrialized communities, depopulated rural
23 communities, the poor, low-income workers, women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with
24 disabilities, and youth (referred to in this preamble as “frontline and vulnerable
25 communities”);

26 Whereas, climate change constitutes a direct threat to the national security of the United States—

27 (1) by impacting the economic, environmental, and social stability of
28 countries and communities around the world; and

29 (2) by acting as a threat multiplier;

30 Whereas the Federal Government-led mobilizations during World War II and the New Deal
31 created the greatest middle class that the United States has ever seen, but many members of
32 frontline and vulnerable communities were excluded from many of the economic and
33 societal benefits of those mobilizations; and

34 Whereas the Senate recognizes that a new national, social, industrial, and economic mobilization
35 on a scale not seen since World War II and the New Deal era is a historic opportunity—

36 (1) to create millions of good, high-wage jobs in the United States;

37 (2) to provide unprecedented levels of prosperity and economic security
38 for all people of the United States; and

39 (3) to counteract systemic injustices: Now, therefore, be it

1 Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

2 (1) it is the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal—

3 (A) to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through a fair and just transition
4 for all communities and workers;

5 (B) to create millions of good, high-wage jobs and ensure prosperity and economic
6 security for all people of the United States;

7 (C) to invest in the infrastructure and industry of the United States to sustainably
8 meet the challenges of the 21st century;

9 (D) to secure for all people of the United States for generations to come—

10 (i) clean air and water;

11 (ii) climate and community resiliency;

12 (iii) healthy food;

13 (iv) access to nature; and

14 (v) a sustainable environment; and

15 (E) to promote justice and equity by stopping current, preventing future, and
16 repairing historic oppression of indigenous peoples, communities of color, migrant
17 communities, deindustrialized communities, depopulated rural communities, the poor,
18 low-income workers, women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with disabilities, and
19 youth (referred to in this resolution as “frontline and vulnerable communities”);

20 (2) the goals described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (1) (referred to in
21 this resolution as the “Green New Deal goals”) should be accomplished through a 10-year
22 national mobilization (referred to in this resolution as the “Green New Deal mobilization”)
23 that will require the following goals and projects—

24 (A) building resiliency against climate change-related disasters, such as extreme
25 weather, including by leveraging funding and providing investments for community-
26 defined projects and strategies;

27 (B) repairing and upgrading the infrastructure in the United States, including—

28 (i) by eliminating pollution and greenhouse gas emissions as much as
29 technologically feasible;

30 (ii) by guaranteeing universal access to clean water;

31 (iii) by reducing the risks posed by climate impacts; and

32 (iv) by ensuring that any infrastructure bill considered by Congress addresses
33 climate change;

34 (C) meeting 100 percent of the power demand in the United States through clean,
35 renewable, and zero-emission energy sources, including—

36 (i) by dramatically expanding and upgrading renewable power sources; and

37 (ii) by deploying new capacity;

1 (D) building or upgrading to energy-efficient, distributed, and “smart” power grids,
2 and ensuring affordable access to electricity;

3 (E) upgrading all existing buildings in the United States and building new buildings
4 to achieve maximum energy efficiency, water efficiency, safety, affordability, comfort,
5 and durability, including through electrification;

6 (F) spurring massive growth in clean manufacturing in the United States and
7 removing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from manufacturing and industry as
8 much as is technologically feasible, including by expanding renewable energy
9 manufacturing and investing in existing manufacturing and industry;

10 (G) working collaboratively with farmers and ranchers in the United States to
11 remove pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector as much as
12 is technologically feasible, including—

13 (i) by supporting family farming;

14 (ii) by investing in sustainable farming and land use practices that increase soil
15 health; and

16 (iii) by building a more sustainable food system that ensures universal access to
17 healthy food;

18 (H) overhauling transportation systems in the United States to remove pollution and
19 greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector as much as is technologically
20 feasible, including through investment in—

21 (i) zero-emission vehicle infrastructure and manufacturing;

22 (ii) clean, affordable, and accessible public transit; and

23 (iii) high-speed rail;

24 (I) mitigating and managing the long-term adverse health, economic, and other
25 effects of pollution and climate change, including by providing funding for
26 community-defined projects and strategies;

27 (J) removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere and reducing pollution by
28 restoring natural ecosystems through proven low-tech solutions that increase soil
29 carbon storage, such as land preservation and afforestation;

30 (K) restoring and protecting threatened, endangered, and fragile ecosystems through
31 locally appropriate and science-based projects that enhance biodiversity and support
32 climate resiliency;

33 (L) cleaning up existing hazardous waste and abandoned sites, ensuring economic
34 development and sustainability on those sites;

35 (M) identifying other emission and pollution sources and creating solutions to
36 remove them; and

37 (N) promoting the international exchange of technology, expertise, products,
38 funding, and services, with the aim of making the United States the international leader
39 on climate action, and to help other countries achieve a Green New Deal;

1 (3) a Green New Deal must be developed through transparent and inclusive consultation,
2 collaboration, and partnership with frontline and vulnerable communities, labor unions,
3 worker cooperatives, civil society groups, academia, and businesses; and

4 (4) to achieve the Green New Deal goals and mobilization, a Green New Deal will
5 require the following goals and projects—

6 (A) providing and leveraging, in a way that ensures that the public receives
7 appropriate ownership stakes and returns on investment, adequate capital (including
8 through community grants, public banks, and other public financing), technical
9 expertise, supporting policies, and other forms of assistance to communities,
10 organizations, Federal, State, and local government agencies, and businesses working
11 on the Green New Deal mobilization;

12 (B) ensuring that the Federal Government takes into account the complete
13 environmental and social costs and impacts of emissions through—

14 (i) existing laws;

15 (ii) new policies and programs; and

16 (iii) ensuring that frontline and vulnerable communities shall not be adversely
17 affected;

18 (C) providing resources, training, and high-quality education, including higher
19 education, to all people of the United States, with a focus on frontline and vulnerable
20 communities, so that all people of the United States may be full and equal participants
21 in the Green New Deal mobilization;

22 (D) making public investments in the research and development of new clean and
23 renewable energy technologies and industries;

24 (E) directing investments to spur economic development, deepen and diversify
25 industry and business in local and regional economies, and build wealth and
26 community ownership, while prioritizing high-quality job creation and economic,
27 social, and environmental benefits in frontline and vulnerable communities, and
28 deindustrialized communities, that may otherwise struggle with the transition away
29 from greenhouse gas intensive industries;

30 (F) ensuring the use of democratic and participatory processes that are inclusive of
31 and led by frontline and vulnerable communities and workers to plan, implement, and
32 administer the Green New Deal mobilization at the local level;

33 (G) ensuring that the Green New Deal mobilization creates high-quality union jobs
34 that pay prevailing wages, hires local workers, offers training and advancement
35 opportunities, and guarantees wage and benefit parity for workers affected by the
36 transition;

37 (H) guaranteeing a job with a family-sustaining wage, adequate family and medical
38 leave, paid vacations, and retirement security to all people of the United States;

39 (I) strengthening and protecting the right of all workers to organize, unionize, and
40 collectively bargain free of coercion, intimidation, and harassment;

1 (J) strengthening and enforcing labor, workplace health and safety,
2 antidiscrimination, and wage and hour standards across all employers, industries, and
3 sectors;

4 (K) enacting and enforcing trade rules, procurement standards, and border
5 adjustments with strong labor and environmental protections—

6 (i) to stop the transfer of jobs and pollution overseas; and

7 (ii) to grow domestic manufacturing in the United States;

8 (L) ensuring that public lands, waters, and oceans are protected and that eminent
9 domain is not abused;

10 (M) obtaining the free, prior, and informed consent of indigenous peoples for all
11 decisions that affect indigenous peoples and their traditional territories, honoring all
12 treaties and agreements with indigenous peoples, and protecting and enforcing the
13 sovereignty and land rights of indigenous peoples;

14 (N) ensuring a commercial environment where every businessperson is free from
15 unfair competition and domination by domestic or international monopolies; and

16 (O) providing all people of the United States with—

17 (i) high-quality health care;

18 (ii) affordable, safe, and adequate housing;

19 (iii) economic security; and

20 (iv) clean water, clean air, healthy and affordable food, and access to nature.