

Calendar No. 27

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. J. RES. 8

Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 13, 2019

Mr. McCONNELL introduced the following joint resolution; which was read the first time

FEBRUARY 14, 2019

Read the second time and placed on the calendar

JOINT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds that—

5 (1) the October 2018 report entitled “Special
6 Report on Global Warming of 1.5 C” by the Inter-
7 governmental Panel on Climate Change and the No-

1 vember 2018 Fourth National Climate Assessment
2 report found that—

3 (A) human activity is the dominant cause
4 of observed climate change over the past cen-
5 tury;

6 (B) a changing climate is causing sea lev-
7 els to rise and an increase in wildfires, severe
8 storms, droughts, and other extreme weather
9 events that threaten human life, healthy com-
10 munities, and critical infrastructure;

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

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

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

19 (iii) wildfires that, by 2050, will annu-
20 ally burn at least twice as much forest
21 area in the western United States than
22 was typically burned by wildfires in the
23 years preceding 2019;

24 (iv) a loss of more than 99 percent of
25 all coral reefs on Earth;

1 (v) more than 350,000,000 more peo-
2 ple to be exposed globally to deadly heat
3 stress by 2050; and

4 (vi) a risk of damage to
5 \$1,000,000,000,000 of public infrastruc-
6 ture and coastal real estate in the United
7 States; and

8 (D) global temperatures must be kept
9 below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industri-
10 alized levels to avoid the most severe impacts of
11 a changing climate, which will require—

12 (i) global reductions in greenhouse gas
13 emissions from human sources of 40 to 60
14 percent from 2010 levels by 2030; and

15 (ii) net-zero global emissions by 2050;

16 (2) because the United States has historically
17 been responsible for a disproportionate amount of
18 greenhouse gas emissions, having emitted 20 percent
19 of global greenhouse gas emissions through 2014,
20 and has a high technological capacity, the United
21 States must take a leading role in reducing emis-
22 sions through economic transformation;

23 (3) the United States is currently experiencing
24 several related crises, with—

1 (A) life expectancy declining while basic
2 needs, such as clean air, clean water, healthy
3 food, and adequate health care, housing, trans-
4 portation, and education, are inaccessible to a
5 significant portion of the United States popu-
6 lation;

7 (B) a 4-decade trend of wage stagnation,
8 deindustrialization, and anti-labor policies that
9 has led to—

10 (i) hourly wages overall stagnating
11 since the 1970s despite increased worker
12 productivity;

13 (ii) the third-worst level of socio-
14 economic mobility in the developed world
15 before the Great Recession;

16 (iii) the erosion of the earning and
17 bargaining power of workers in the United
18 States; and

19 (iv) inadequate resources for public
20 sector workers to confront the challenges
21 of climate change at local, State, and Fed-
22 eral levels; and

23 (C) the greatest income inequality since
24 the 1920s, with—

1 (i) the top 1 percent of earners accru-
 2 ing 91 percent of gains in the first few
 3 years of economic recovery after the Great
 4 Recession;

5 (ii) a large racial wealth divide
 6 amounting to a difference of 20 times
 7 more wealth between the average White
 8 family and the average Black family; and

9 (iii) a gender earnings gap that re-
 10 sults in women earning approximately 80
 11 percent as much as men, at the median;

12 (4) climate change, pollution, and environ-
 13 mental destruction have exacerbated systemic racial,
 14 regional, social, environmental, and economic injus-
 15 tices (referred to in this section as “systemic injus-
 16 tices”) by disproportionately affecting indigenous
 17 peoples, communities of color, migrant communities,
 18 deindustrialized communities, depopulated rural
 19 communities, the poor, low-income workers, women,
 20 the elderly, the unhoused, people with disabilities,
 21 and youth (referred to in this section as “frontline
 22 and vulnerable communities”);

23 (5) climate change constitutes a direct threat to
 24 the national security of the United States—

1 (A) by impacting the economic, environ-
 2 mental, and social stability of countries and
 3 communities around the world; and

4 (B) by acting as a threat multiplier;

5 (6) the Federal Government-led mobilizations
 6 during World War II and the New Deal created the
 7 greatest middle class that the United States has ever
 8 seen, but many members of frontline and vulnerable
 9 communities were excluded from many of the eco-
 10 nomic and societal benefits of those mobilizations;
 11 and

12 (7) a new national, social, industrial, and eco-
 13 nomic mobilization on a scale not seen since World
 14 War II and the New Deal era is a historic oppor-
 15 tunity—

16 (A) to create millions of good, high-wage
 17 jobs in the United States;

18 (B) to provide unprecedented levels of
 19 prosperity and economic security for all people
 20 of the United States; and

21 (C) to counteract systemic injustices.

22 **SEC. 2. GREEN NEW DEAL POLICY.**

23 It is the policy of the United States that—

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

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

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

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

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

12 (i) clean air and water;

13 (ii) climate and community resiliency;

14 (iii) healthy food;

15 (iv) access to nature; and

16 (v) a sustainable environment; and

17 (E) to promote justice and equity by stop-
 18 ping current, preventing future, and repairing
 19 historic oppression of indigenous peoples, com-
 20 munities of color, migrant communities,
 21 deindustrialized communities, depopulated rural
 22 communities, the poor, low-income workers,
 23 women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with
 24 disabilities, and youth (referred to in this sec-

1 tion as “frontline and vulnerable commu-
2 nities”);

3 (2) the goals described in subparagraphs (A)
4 through (E) of paragraph (1) (referred to in this
5 section as the “Green New Deal goals”) should be
6 accomplished through a 10-year national mobiliza-
7 tion (referred to in this section as the “Green New
8 Deal mobilization”) that will require the following
9 goals and projects—

10 (A) building resiliency against climate
11 change-related disasters, such as extreme
12 weather, including by leveraging funding and
13 providing investments for community-defined
14 projects and strategies;

15 (B) repairing and upgrading the infra-
16 structure in the United States, including—

17 (i) by eliminating pollution and green-
18 house gas emissions as much as techno-
19 logically feasible;

20 (ii) by guaranteeing universal access
21 to clean water;

22 (iii) by reducing the risks posed by cli-
23 mate impacts; and

1 (iv) by ensuring that any infrastruc-
2 ture bill considered by Congress addresses
3 climate change;

4 (C) meeting 100 percent of the power de-
5 mand in the United States through clean, re-
6 newable, and zero-emission energy sources, in-
7 cluding—

8 (i) by dramatically expanding and up-
9 grading renewable power sources; and

10 (ii) by deploying new capacity;

11 (D) building or upgrading to energy-effi-
12 cient, distributed, and “smart” power grids,
13 and ensuring affordable access to electricity;

14 (E) upgrading all existing buildings in the
15 United States and building new buildings to
16 achieve maximum energy efficiency, water effi-
17 ciency, safety, affordability, comfort, and dura-
18 bility, including through electrification;

19 (F) spurring massive growth in clean man-
20 ufacturing in the United States and removing
21 pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from
22 manufacturing and industry as much as is tech-
23 nologically feasible, including by expanding re-
24 newable energy manufacturing and investing in
25 existing manufacturing and industry;

1 (G) working collaboratively with farmers
2 and ranchers in the United States to remove
3 pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from
4 the agricultural sector as much as is techno-
5 logically feasible, including—

6 (i) by supporting family farming;

7 (ii) by investing in sustainable farm-
8 ing and land use practices that increase
9 soil health; and

10 (iii) by building a more sustainable
11 food system that ensures universal access
12 to healthy food;

13 (H) overhauling transportation systems in
14 the United States to remove pollution and
15 greenhouse gas emissions from the transpor-
16 tation sector as much as is technologically fea-
17 sible, including through investment in—

18 (i) zero-emission vehicle infrastructure
19 and manufacturing;

20 (ii) clean, affordable, and accessible
21 public transit; and

22 (iii) high-speed rail;

23 (I) mitigating and managing the long-term
24 adverse health, economic, and other effects of
25 pollution and climate change, including by pro-

1 viding funding for community-defined projects
2 and strategies;

3 (J) removing greenhouse gases from the
4 atmosphere and reducing pollution by restoring
5 natural ecosystems through proven low-tech so-
6 lutions that increase soil carbon storage, such
7 as land preservation and afforestation;

8 (K) restoring and protecting threatened,
9 endangered, and fragile ecosystems through lo-
10 cally appropriate and science-based projects
11 that enhance biodiversity and support climate
12 resiliency;

13 (L) cleaning up existing hazardous waste
14 and abandoned sites, ensuring economic devel-
15 opment and sustainability on those sites;

16 (M) identifying other emission and pollu-
17 tion sources and creating solutions to remove
18 them; and

19 (N) promoting the international exchange
20 of technology, expertise, products, funding, and
21 services, with the aim of making the United
22 States the international leader on climate ac-
23 tion, and to help other countries achieve a
24 Green New Deal;

1 (3) a Green New Deal must be developed
2 through transparent and inclusive consultation, col-
3 laboration, and partnership with frontline and vul-
4 nerable communities, labor unions, worker coopera-
5 tives, civil society groups, academia, and businesses;
6 and

7 (4) to achieve the Green New Deal goals and
8 mobilization, a Green New Deal will require the fol-
9 lowing goals and projects—

10 (A) providing and leveraging, in a way that
11 ensures that the public receives appropriate
12 ownership stakes and returns on investment,
13 adequate capital (including through community
14 grants, public banks, and other public financ-
15 ing), technical expertise, supporting policies,
16 and other forms of assistance to communities,
17 organizations, Federal, State, and local govern-
18 ment agencies, and businesses working on the
19 Green New Deal mobilization;

20 (B) ensuring that the Federal Government
21 takes into account the complete environmental
22 and social costs and impacts of emissions
23 through—

24 (i) existing laws;

25 (ii) new policies and programs; and

1 (iii) ensuring that frontline and vul-
2 nerable communities shall not be adversely
3 affected;

4 (C) providing resources, training, and
5 high-quality education, including higher edu-
6 cation, to all people of the United States, with
7 a focus on frontline and vulnerable commu-
8 nities, so that all people of the United States
9 may be full and equal participants in the Green
10 New Deal mobilization;

11 (D) making public investments in the re-
12 search and development of new clean and re-
13 newable energy technologies and industries;

14 (E) directing investments to spur economic
15 development, deepen and diversify industry and
16 business in local and regional economies, and
17 build wealth and community ownership, while
18 prioritizing high-quality job creation and eco-
19 nomic, social, and environmental benefits in
20 frontline and vulnerable communities, and
21 deindustrialized communities, that may other-
22 wise struggle with the transition away from
23 greenhouse gas intensive industries;

24 (F) ensuring the use of democratic and
25 participatory processes that are inclusive of and

1 led by frontline and vulnerable communities and
2 workers to plan, implement, and administer the
3 Green New Deal mobilization at the local level;

4 (G) ensuring that the Green New Deal mo-
5 bilization creates high-quality union jobs that
6 pay prevailing wages, hires local workers, offers
7 training and advancement opportunities, and
8 guarantees wage and benefit parity for workers
9 affected by the transition;

10 (H) guaranteeing a job with a family-sus-
11 taining wage, adequate family and medical
12 leave, paid vacations, and retirement security to
13 all people of the United States;

14 (I) strengthening and protecting the right
15 of all workers to organize, unionize, and collec-
16 tively bargain free of coercion, intimidation, and
17 harassment;

18 (J) strengthening and enforcing labor,
19 workplace health and safety, antidiscrimination,
20 and wage and hour standards across all employ-
21 ers, industries, and sectors;

22 (K) enacting and enforcing trade rules,
23 procurement standards, and border adjustments
24 with strong labor and environmental protec-
25 tions—

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

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

5 (L) ensuring that public lands, waters, and
6 oceans are protected and that eminent domain
7 is not abused;

8 (M) obtaining the free, prior, and informed
9 consent of indigenous peoples for all decisions
10 that affect indigenous peoples and their tradi-
11 tional territories, honoring all treaties and
12 agreements with indigenous peoples, and pro-
13 tecting and enforcing the sovereignty and land
14 rights of indigenous peoples;

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

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

21 (i) high-quality health care;

22 (ii) affordable, safe, and adequate
23 housing;

24 (iii) economic security; and

- 1 (iv) clean water, clean air, healthy and
- 2 affordable food, and access to nature.

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