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S. RES. 693

Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to implement an agenda to Transform, Heal, and Renew by Investing in a Vibrant Economy (“THRIVE”).

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. UDALL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to implement an agenda to Transform, Heal, and Renew by Investing in a Vibrant Economy (“THRIVE”).

Whereas families and communities throughout the United States share similar hopes and dreams of a good life that is free from worry about meeting basic needs, with reliable and fulfilling work, a dignified and healthy standard of living, and the ability to enjoy time with loved ones;

Whereas the United States faces the stress of multiple, overlapping crises—old and new—that prevent the achievement of these fundamental human rights and needs, in which the COVID–19 pandemic has killed over 180,000

United States residents; tens of millions of United States workers remain unemployed; rising economic inequality has made working families vulnerable; tens of millions of individuals do not get the health care they need; and intensifying climate change increases the threats to our health, economy, and livelihoods;

Whereas these health, economic, and climate crises have magnified centuries-old injustices, causing high rates of death and hardship among Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities due to long-standing systemic racism—a fact spotlighted by an emerging, multiracial movement to end violence against Black people;

Whereas these crises are causing the inequitable workloads of women—particularly women of color—to grow, especially as women of color overwhelmingly make up the essential workforce, bearing the weight of the increased care needs of children, the elderly, and the sick;

Whereas, even before the COVID–19 crisis, many rural communities and independent family farmers suffered from poverty, declining economic opportunity, and alarming rates of farm bankruptcy, including loss of land from Black farmers and the exploitation of Black, Brown, and Indigenous farmers caused by predatory and racist public, private, and governmental institutions and policies;

Whereas the root of our interlocking economic and environmental crises is society’s historical willingness to treat some communities and workers as disposable;

Whereas it is necessary to counteract systemic injustice and value the dignity of all individuals in order to address unemployment, pandemics, or climate change and ensure the survival of the Nation and the planet;

Whereas the choices made in response to these crises will shape the United States direction for the 21st century and beyond, offering an opportunity to reshape our society to provide a good life for each of us and for our children and grandchildren; and

Whereas the United States has the means to support fulfilling livelihoods for millions of people—Black, Indigenous, Brown, Latinx, Asian/Pacific Islander, White, immigrant, urban and rural, old and young, of many faiths, genders, abilities, and talents—while working to heal harms, protect communities, and invest in a future that fosters justice, not crisis: 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
3 respond to the crises of racial injustice, mass unem-
4 ployment, a pandemic, and climate change with a
5 bold and holistic national mobilization, an Agenda to
6 Transform, Heal, and Renew by Investing in a Vi-
7 brant Economy (“THRIVE”) (referred to in this re-
8 solving clause as the “Agenda”), to build a society
9 that enables—

10 (A) greater racial, economic, and gender
11 justice;

12 (B) dignified work;

13 (C) healthy communities; and

14 (D) a stable climate; and

15 (2) such Agenda shall be assessed upon its abil-
16 ity to uphold its foundational pillars, including—

1 (A) creating millions of good, safe jobs
2 with access to unions by—

3 (i) investing in projects including—

4 (I) upgrading our broken infra-
5 structure to expand access to clean
6 and affordable energy, transportation,
7 high-speed broadband, and water, par-
8 ticularly for public systems;

9 (II) modernizing and retrofitting
10 millions of homes, schools, offices, and
11 industrial buildings to cut pollution
12 and costs;

13 (III) investing in public health
14 and care work, including by increasing
15 jobs, protections, wages, and benefits
16 for the historically unpaid and under-
17 valued work of caring for children, the
18 elderly, and the sick;

19 (IV) protecting and restoring
20 wetlands, forests, and public lands,
21 and cleaning up pollution in our com-
22 munities;

23 (V) creating opportunities for
24 family farmers and rural communities,
25 including by untangling the hyper-

1 consolidated food supply chain, bol-
2 stering regenerative agriculture, and
3 investing in local and regional food
4 systems that support farmers, agricul-
5 tural workers, healthy soil, and cli-
6 mate resilience; and

7 (VI) developing and transforming
8 the industrial base of the United
9 States, while creating high-skill, high-
10 wage manufacturing jobs across the
11 country, including by expanding man-
12 ufacturing of clean technologies, re-
13 ducing industrial pollution, and
14 prioritizing clean, domestic manufac-
15 turing for the aforementioned invest-
16 ments;

17 (ii) prioritizing the mobilization of di-
18 rect public investments, while excluding
19 false solutions that—

20 (I) increase inequality;

21 (II) privatize public lands, water,
22 or nature;

23 (III) violate human rights;

24 (IV) expedite the destruction of
25 ecosystems; or

1 (V) decrease union density or
2 membership;

3 (iii) driving investment toward real
4 full employment, where every individual
5 who wishes to work has a viable pathway
6 to a meaningful and dignified job with the
7 right to form a union, including by estab-
8 lishing new public employment programs,
9 as necessary; and

10 (iv) subjecting each job created under
11 this Agenda to high-road labor standards
12 that—

13 (I) require family-sustaining
14 wages and benefits, including child
15 care support;

16 (II) ensure safe workplaces;

17 (III) protect the rights of work-
18 ers to organize; and

19 (IV) prioritize the hiring of local
20 workers to ensure wages stay within
21 communities to stimulate economic ac-
22 tivity;

23 (B) building the power of workers to fight
24 inequality by—

1 (i) reversing the corporate erosion of
2 workers' organizing rights and bargaining
3 power so that millions of new clean energy
4 jobs, as well as millions of existing low-
5 wage jobs across the economy, become the
6 family-supporting union jobs that everyone
7 deserves, including by—

8 (I) passing the bipartisan Pro-
9 tecting the Right to Organize Act;

10 (II) repealing the ban on sec-
11 ondary boycotts;

12 (III) requiring employer neu-
13 trality with regard to union orga-
14 nizing;

15 (IV) ensuring that “franchising”
16 and other corporate structures may
17 not be used to hinder collective bar-
18 gaining on a company-wide, regional,
19 or national basis;

20 (V) advancing sectoral bar-
21 gaining in certain economic sectors;
22 and

23 (VI) ensuring that no workers
24 are misclassified as “independent con-
25 tractors;”

1 (ii) expanding union representation
2 for all workers; and

3 (iii) creating ladders of opportunity,
4 particularly for women and people of color,
5 to access registered apprenticeship and
6 pre-apprenticeship programs in commu-
7 nities of all sizes across the country;

8 (C) investing in Black, Brown, and Indige-
9 nous communities to build power and counter-
10 act racial and gender injustice by—

11 (i) directing at least 40 percent of in-
12 vestments to communities that have been
13 excluded, oppressed, and harmed by racist
14 and unjust practices, including—

15 (I) communities of color;

16 (II) low-income communities;

17 (III) deindustrialized commu-
18 nities; and

19 (IV) communities facing environ-
20 mental injustice;

21 (ii) ensuring that investments in these
22 communities enable—

23 (I) the creation of good jobs with
24 family-sustaining wages;

- 1 (II) economic ownership opportu-
2 nities that close the racial wealth gap;
3 (III) pollution reduction;
4 (IV) climate resilience;
5 (V) small business support;
6 (VI) economic opportunities for
7 independent family farmers and
8 ranchers; and
9 (VII) the expansion of public
10 services;
- 11 (iii) ensuring that affected commu-
12 nities have the power to democratically
13 plan, implement, and administer these
14 projects;
- 15 (iv) prioritizing local and equitable
16 hiring and contracting that creates oppor-
17 tunities for—
- 18 (I) people of color;
19 (II) immigrants, regardless of
20 immigration status;
21 (III) formerly incarcerated indi-
22 viduals;
23 (IV) women;
24 (V) LGBTQIAP+ individuals;

1 (VI) disabled and chronically ill
2 individuals; and

3 (VII) marginalized communities;
4 and

5 (v) providing access to quality work-
6 force training, including through registered
7 apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships to
8 ensure real pathways to good careers, in-
9 cluding those that have historically been
10 inaccessible;

11 (D) strengthening and healing the nation-
12 to-nation relationship with sovereign Native Na-
13 tions, including by—

14 (i) making systemic changes in Fed-
15 eral policies to honor the environmental
16 and social trust responsibilities to Native
17 Nations and their Peoples, which are es-
18 sential to tackling society’s economic, envi-
19 ronmental, and health crises;

20 (ii) strengthening Tribal sovereignty
21 and enforcing Indian treaty rights by mov-
22 ing towards greater recognition and sup-
23 port of the inherent self-governance and
24 sovereignty of these nations and their
25 members; and

1 (iii) promulgating specific initiatives
2 that reflect the nuanced relationships be-
3 tween the Native Nations, including—

4 (I) the confirmation by Congress
5 that Tribal nations can exercise their
6 full and inherent civil regulatory and
7 adjudicatory authority over their own
8 citizens, lands, and resources, and
9 over activities within their Tribal
10 lands;

11 (II) the codification of Free,
12 Prior, and Informed Consent as it re-
13 lates to Tribal consultation; and

14 (III) the implementation of the
15 United Nations Declaration on the
16 Rights of Indigenous Peoples, without
17 qualification;

18 (E) combating environmental injustice and
19 ensuring healthy lives for all, including by—

20 (i) curtailing air, water, and land pol-
21 lution from all sources;

22 (ii) removing health hazards from
23 communities;

24 (iii) replacing lead pipes to ensure
25 clean water is available to all;

- 1 (iv) remediating the cumulative health
2 and environmental impacts of toxic pollu-
3 tion and climate change;
- 4 (v) ensuring that affected commu-
5 nities have equitable access to public
6 health resources that have been system-
7 ically denied, which includes—
- 8 (I) upgrading unhealthy and
9 overcrowded homes, public schools,
10 and public hospitals;
- 11 (II) ensuring access to healthy
12 food, mental health support, and re-
13 storative justice; and
- 14 (III) investing in universal
15 childcare, care for individuals with
16 disabilities, senior care, and a robust
17 care workforce; and
- 18 (vi) focusing these initiatives in Black,
19 Brown, and Indigenous communities that
20 have endured disproportionately high death
21 rates from COVID–19 due to higher expo-
22 sure to air pollution and other cumulative
23 health hazards as a result of decades of en-
24 vironmental racism;

- 1 (F) averting climate and environmental ca-
2 tastrophe, including by—
- 3 (i) contributing to a livable climate
4 and environment for today and for future
5 generations, including by—
- 6 (I) staying below 1.5 degrees Cel-
7 sius of global warming;
- 8 (II) building climate resilience to
9 keep communities safe; and
- 10 (III) ensuring sustainable re-
11 source use;
- 12 (ii) deploying investments and stand-
13 ards in the electricity, transportation,
14 buildings, manufacturing, lands, and agri-
15 cultural sectors to spur the largest expan-
16 sion in history of clean, renewable energy,
17 emissions reductions, climate resilience,
18 and sustainable resource use;
- 19 (iii) transforming the power sector in
20 order to move the country, by not later
21 than 2035, to carbon pollution-free elec-
22 tricity that passes an environmental justice
23 screen to prevent concentrating pollution
24 in Black, Brown, and Indigenous commu-
25 nities;

1 (iv) prioritizing materials and parts
2 that meet high labor, environmental, and
3 human rights standards throughout the
4 supply chain;

5 (v) supporting sustainable, domestic
6 production of healthy, nutritious food that
7 pays independent farmers and ranchers a
8 fair price for their land stewardship; and

9 (vi) ensuring that funding under this
10 Agenda goes to workers and communities
11 affected by the economic and environ-
12 mental crises, not to corporate fossil fuel
13 polluters;

14 (G) ensuring fairness for workers and com-
15 munities affected by economic transitions by—

16 (i) guaranteeing that workers and
17 communities in industries and regions in
18 economic transition due to COVID–19, cli-
19 mate change, and other economic shocks
20 receive—

21 (I) stable wages and benefits, in-
22 cluding full pension and healthcare;

23 (II) early retirement offerings;

24 (III) crisis and trauma support;

25 and

1 (IV) equitable job placement; and

2 (ii) investing in transitioning areas to

3 support—

4 (I) economic diversification;

5 (II) high-quality job creation;

6 (III) community reinvestment;

7 (IV) retooling and conversion;

8 (V) reclamation and remediation

9 of closed and abandoned facilities and

10 sites;

11 (VI) child and adult care infra-

12 structure; and

13 (VII) funding to shore up budget

14 shortfalls in local and State govern-

15 ments; and

16 (H) reinvesting in public sector institutions

17 that enable workers and communities to thrive

18 by—

19 (i) rebuilding vital public services and

20 strengthening social infrastructure in cities

21 and counties, healthcare systems, schools,

22 the postal service, and other services;

23 (ii) investing in equitable public edu-

24 cation opportunities, including career and

25 technical education pathways that prepare

1 youth—especially girls; Black, Brown, and
2 Indigenous students; students with disabili-
3 ties; students from low-income families;
4 and other students from marginalized
5 groups—for high-quality jobs of the future,
6 and state of the art technology and
7 schools, so that from the beginning stu-
8 dents are prepared to transform society
9 and preserve democracy;

10 (iii) investing in the workers who pro-
11 vide care to children, the elderly, and com-
12 munities burdened by neglect;

13 (iv) creating new public institutions,
14 inspired by and improving upon New Deal-
15 era institutions, to ensure universal access
16 to critical resources and to strategically
17 and coherently mobilize and channel in-
18 vestments, in line with the above priorities,
19 at the scale and pace that these times re-
20 quire; and

21 (v) coupling this institutional renewal
22 with democratic governance and account-
23 ability to correct the systemic misallocation
24 of resources and representation that pre-
25 vents families and communities from meet-

- 1 ing fundamental human needs and pur-
- 2 suing fulfilling lives.

