

State of Vermont

Senate Chamber



Montpelier, Vermont

Senate Resolution

By Senators Campion, Ayer, Balint, Baruth, Bray, Lyons, McCormack, Sears, Sirotkin, White, and Zuckerman,

S.R. 6. Senate resolution relating to climate change.

Whereas, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, an internationally respected body of climate change experts, the “warming in the climate system is unequivocal,” and “human influence on the climate system is clear,” and

Whereas, in accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 578:

It is the goal of the State to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from within the geographic boundaries of the State and those emissions outside the boundaries of the State that are caused by the use of energy in Vermont in order to make an appropriate contribution to achieving the regional goals of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases from the 1990 baseline by:

- (1) 25 percent by January 1, 2012;
- (2) 50 percent by January 1, 2028;
- (3) if practicable using reasonable efforts, 75 percent by January 1, 2050, and

Whereas, despite the statutory timetable, in 2011 the State’s emissions levels reached 8.11 million metric tons returning them to their 1990 status, and

Whereas, in 2012, the target of 6.0 million metric tons of emissions was far from being achieved, and

Whereas, according to Mathias Collins, a hydrologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, “starting around 1970, flood frequency and magnitude in Vermont underwent a significant steep change,” and that the severe flooding of Tropical Storm Irene is a harbinger of things to come, and

Whereas, a documented example of climate change in Vermont is the freeze-up and ice-out cycle for Stile’s Pond in Waterford, and

Whereas, records the Fairbanks Museum has maintained document that since 1971, the frozen winter period for Stile’s Pond has decreased an average of seven days per decade, and

Whereas, clean energy technologies can help Vermonters save money, cut pollution, and become energy self-sufficient, and

Whereas, on January 21, 2012, the U.S. Senate rejected the Schatz Amendment to S.1 (the Keystone Pipeline bill) acknowledging the findings of climate change and its human cause that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change had reported previously, and

Whereas, failure to identify the problem accurately precludes effective solutions, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate:

That the Senate of the State of Vermont believes that climate change is real, that human activity is contributing substantially to the presence of climate change, and that it is imperative that Vermont take steps now to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels in order to promote energy independence and meet the State’s goals for reduced greenhouse gas emissions, *and be it further*

Resolved: The Secretary of the Senate be directed to send a copy of this resolution the Vermont Congressional Delegation.