

# State of Vermont

## Senate Chamber



Montpelier, Vermont

### Senate Resolution

By Senators Campion, Ashe, Balint, Baruth, Bray, Cummings, Lyons, MacDonald, McCormack, Pollina, Sears, Sirotkin, White, and Zuckerman,

**S.R. 7.** Senate resolution relating to climate change.

~~Whereas, according to the most credible body of climate experts in the world, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the “warming in the climate system is unequivocal,” and “human influence on the climate system is clear,” and~~

~~Whereas, 10 V.S.A. § 578 explicitly sets forth the goal of the State of Vermont to reduce greenhouse gas pollution as follows:~~

~~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, in 2013, the Department of Public Service reported to the General Assembly that as of 2011, Vermont’s greenhouse gas emissions were almost unchanged from the State’s 1990 emissions, and~~

~~Whereas, consequently, the State has already failed to meet its statutory goal of a 25 percent reduction in greenhouse gas pollution, and~~

~~Whereas, an analysis of state data from the National Climatic Data Center shows that in Vermont, during the years 1948–2011, there was an 84 percent increase in extreme precipitation, and~~

~~Whereas, extreme storms and so-called hundred year floods have already caused hundreds of millions of dollars in damage in this decade alone, and University of Vermont researchers have said Tropical Storm Irene is a “harbinger of what’s to come,” and~~

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

~~Whereas, in its rejection of the Schatz Amendment to S.1 (the Keystone Pipeline bill) on Wednesday, January 21, 2015, the U.S. Senate voted against recognizing that “it is extremely likely that global increases in atmospheric [greenhouse gas] concentrations and global temperatures are caused by human activities,” and~~

~~Whereas, failure to identify accurately any problem precludes the development of effective solutions, now therefore be it~~

~~**Resolved by the Senate:**~~

~~That the Senate of the State of Vermont recognizes that climate change is real, that human activities make a substantive contribution to climate change, and that it is imperative Vermont take steps now to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels in order to promote energy independence and meet the State's statutory goals for reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and be it further~~

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

~~Whereas, according to the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the "warming in the climate system is unequivocal," and "human influence on the climate system is clear," and~~

~~Whereas, heat-trapping particles in the atmosphere, also known as greenhouse gases, absorb heat and cause temperatures in the atmosphere to increase, and, according to the World Resources Institute, the combustion of fossil fuels (for uses including transportation, electricity, heat, industrial processes, cement production, oil refining, and more) accounts for 77 percent of the global greenhouse gas emissions by humans globally, and~~

~~Whereas, 10 V.S.A. § 578 explicitly sets forth the goal of the State of Vermont to reduce greenhouse gas pollution as follows:~~

~~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, in 2013, the Department of Public Service reported to the General Assembly that as of 2011, Vermont's greenhouse gas emissions were almost unchanged from the State's 1990 emissions, and~~

~~Whereas, consequently, the State has already failed to meet its statutory goal of a 25 percent reduction in greenhouse gas pollution, and~~

~~Whereas, consequently, the State has yet to meet its statutory goal of 25 percent reduction in greenhouse gas pollution, and~~

~~Whereas, an analysis of state data from the National Climatic Data Center shows that in Vermont, during the years 1948–2011, there was an 84 percent increase in extreme precipitation, and~~

~~Whereas, extreme storms and so-called hundred-year floods have already caused hundreds of millions of dollars in damage in this decade alone, and University of Vermont researchers have said Tropical Storm Irene is a "harbinger of what's to come," and~~

~~Whereas, non fossil-fuel energy generation and conservation technologies reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as help Vermonters save money and become more energy self-sufficient, and~~

~~Whereas, failure to identify accurately any problem precludes the development of effective solutions, now therefore be it~~

~~**Resolved by the Senate:**~~

~~That the Senate of the State of Vermont recognizes that climate change is a real and present danger to health and well-being of all Vermonters, that human activities make a substantive contribution to climate change, and that it is imperative Vermont fulfill its stewardship responsibilities, as expressed in the State's statutory goals for reduced greenhouse gas emissions, by taking steps now to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels, and be it further~~

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