

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 291

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a Presidential commission should be established to investigate whether there has been any measurable depletion of stratospheric ozone beyond that caused by natural phenomena, whether it has been proven that the use of chloroflourocarbons damages stratospheric ozone, and whether the phase-out of chloroflourocarbons will have any effect on stratospheric ozone.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 28, 1993

Mr. DOOLITTLE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a Presidential commission should be established to investigate whether there has been any measurable depletion of stratospheric ozone beyond that caused by natural phenomena, whether it has been proven that the use of chloroflourocarbons damages stratospheric ozone, and whether the phaseout of chloroflourocarbons will have any effect on stratospheric ozone.

Whereas, based on the theory that man-made chemicals contribute to ozone depletion and are responsible for the thinning of the ozone layer in the stratosphere and the creation of the “ozone hole”, the United States in 1987 signed the Montreal Protocol to ban chloroflourocarbons

(hereinafter in this preamble referred to as “CFCs”) by the year 2000;

Whereas on February 17, 1992, the United States made a further unilateral commitment to complete the phaseout of CFCs by 1995;

Whereas substantial questions have been raised by many prominent scientists regarding the validity of the theory that the ozone layer in the stratosphere is thinning and that man-made chemicals cause such thinning;

Whereas scientists have challenged the accuracy and interpretation of the data that are being used to support the claim that the ozone layer is thinning;

Whereas scientists have pointed out that the seasonal variation in the thickness of the ozone layer above Antarctica was first measured in the mid-1950s by British scientist Gordon Dobson, as well as by a French scientific team, BEFORE the use of CFCs became extensive;

Whereas it has been alleged that it is the chlorine in the CFCs that breaks down ozone molecules and causes a thinning in the ozone layer, even though 600 million tons of chlorine are released each year into the atmosphere from the evaporation of seawater and 36 million tons of chlorine are released each year from volcanoes, compared to only 7,500 tons of chlorine released from the breakdown of CFCs;

Whereas CFCs thus contribute about 1 thousandth of 1 percent of the total amount of chlorine released into the atmosphere by natural sources;

Whereas it is estimated that the mandated phaseout of CFCs may require the replacement of 610 million refrigerators and freezers, 120 million cold storage units, 150 million

automobile air conditioners, and several thousand refrigeration units used for the storage of medicine, blood supplies, and vaccines, because the approved replacement chemical cannot be used in existing refrigeration systems;

Whereas CFCs are noncorrosive, nontoxic, safe, and relatively inexpensive to produce;

Whereas the main refrigerant replacement approved by the Environmental Protection Agency to replace freon, one of the CFCs, not only requires different equipment but is toxic, costly, and so corrosive that it will require replacement of the equipment in which it is being used every 3 to 7 years;

Whereas it is estimated by the refrigeration industry that the cost of replacement of equipment in which CFCs are being used in the United States and the increased cost of the replacement refrigerant could cost industry and consumers \$2 trillion;

Whereas such replacement will mean an interruption in food storage and preservation in the United States, where 75 percent of the food consumed is refrigerated through the use of CFCs; and

Whereas such a delay in the development and an interruption in the food delivery chain will have particularly severe effects in the developing countries, where it could cause an estimated additional 20 to 40 million deaths per year from disease and starvation: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) a Presidential commission should be estab-
4 lished to investigate whether there has been any

1 measurable depletion of stratospheric ozone beyond
2 the seasonal variations caused by natural phenom-
3 ena, such as the Arctic winter and loss of sunlight;

4 (2) such a commission should also investigate
5 whether it has been proven that the use of man-
6 made chloroflourocarbons damages stratospheric
7 ozone, and whether the phaseout of
8 chloroflourocarbons will have any effect on levels of
9 ozone in the stratosphere; and

10 (3) the membership of the commission should
11 be equally apportioned between representatives from
12 the scientific community whose published experi-
13 mental and theoretical research shows that
14 chloroflourocarbons have a negligible, if any, effect
15 on ozone depletion, and representatives whose re-
16 search makes contrary claims.

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