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S. RES. 173

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 25, 2023

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

RESOLUTION

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

Whereas the October 2018 report entitled “Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C” by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the November 2018 Fourth National Climate Assessment report found that—

(1) human activity is the dominant cause of observed climate change over the past century;

(2) a changing climate is causing sea levels to rise and an increase in wildfires, severe storms, droughts, and other extreme weather events that threaten human life, healthy communities, and critical infrastructure;

(3) global warming at or greater than 2 degrees Celsius beyond preindustrialized levels will cause—

(A) mass migration from the regions most affected by climate change;

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

(C) wildfires that, by 2050, will annually burn at least twice as much forest area in the western United States than was typically burned by wildfires in the years preceding 2019;

(D) a loss of more than 99 percent of all coral reefs on Earth;

(E) more than 350,000,000 more people to be exposed globally to deadly heat stress by 2050; and

(F) a risk of damage to \$1,000,000,000,000 of public infrastructure and coastal real estate in the United States; and

(4) global temperatures must be kept less than 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrialized levels to avoid the most severe impacts of a changing climate, which will require—

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

(B) net-zero global emissions by 2050;

Whereas, because the United States has historically been responsible for a disproportionate amount of greenhouse gas emissions, having emitted 20 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions through 2014, and has a high technological capacity, the United States must take a leading role in reducing emissions through economic transformation;

Whereas the United States is currently experiencing several related crises, with—

(1) life expectancy declining while basic needs, such as clean air, clean water, healthy food, and adequate health care, housing, transportation, and education, are inaccessible to a significant portion of the United States population;

(2) a 4-decade trend of wage stagnation, deindustrialization, and antilabor policies that has led to—

(A) hourly wages overall stagnating since the 1970s despite increased worker productivity;

(B) the third-worst level of socioeconomic mobility in the developed world before the Great Recession;

(C) the erosion of the earning and bargaining power of workers in the United States; and

(D) inadequate resources for public sector workers to confront the challenges of climate change at the Federal, State, and local level; and

(3) the greatest income inequality since the 1920s, with—

(A) the top 1 percent of earners accruing 91 percent of gains in the first few years of economic recovery after the Great Recession;

(B) a large racial wealth divide amounting to a difference of 20 times more wealth between the average White family and the average Black family; and

(C) a gender earnings gap that results in women earning approximately 80 percent as much as men, at the median;

Whereas climate change, pollution, and environmental destruction have exacerbated systemic racial, regional, so-

cial, environmental, and economic injustices (referred to in this preamble as “systemic injustices”) by disproportionately affecting indigenous peoples, communities of color, migrant communities, deindustrialized communities, depopulated rural communities, the poor, low-income workers, women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with disabilities, and youth (referred to in this preamble as “frontline and vulnerable communities”);

Whereas climate change constitutes a direct threat to the national security of the United States—

(1) by impacting the economic, environmental, and social stability of countries and communities around the world; and

(2) by acting as a threat multiplier;

Whereas the Federal Government-led mobilizations during World War II and the New Deal created the greatest middle class that the United States has ever seen, but many members of frontline and vulnerable communities were excluded from many of the economic and societal benefits of those mobilizations; and

Whereas the Senate recognizes that a new national, social, industrial, and economic mobilization on a scale not seen since World War II and the New Deal era is a historic opportunity—

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

(2) to provide unprecedented levels of prosperity and economic security for all people of the United States; and

(3) to counteract systemic injustices: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

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

3 (A) to achieve the greenhouse gas and
4 toxic emissions reductions needed to stay under
5 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming, through a fair
6 and just transition for all communities and
7 workers;

8 (B) to create millions of good, high-wage
9 union jobs and encourage collective bargaining
10 agreements to ensure prosperity and economic
11 security for all people of the United States;

12 (C) to invest in the infrastructure and in-
13 dustry of the United States to sustainably meet
14 the challenges of the 21st century;

15 (D) to secure for all people of the United
16 States for generations to come—

17 (i) clean air and water;

18 (ii) climate and community resiliency;

19 (iii) healthy food;

20 (iv) access to nature; and

21 (v) a sustainable environment; and

22 (E) to promote justice and equity by stop-
23 ping current, preventing future, and repairing
24 historic oppression of indigenous peoples, com-
25 munities of color, migrant communities,

1 deindustrialized communities, depopulated rural
2 communities, the poor, low-income workers,
3 women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with
4 disabilities, and youth (referred to in this reso-
5 lution as “frontline and vulnerable commu-
6 nities”);

7 (2) the goals described in subparagraphs (A)
8 through (E) of paragraph (1) (referred to in this
9 resolution as the “Green New Deal goals”) should
10 be accomplished through a 10-year national mobili-
11 zation (referred to in this resolution as the “Green
12 New Deal mobilization”) that will require—

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

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

20 (i) by eliminating pollution and green-
21 house gas emissions as much as techno-
22 logically feasible;

23 (ii) by guaranteeing universal access
24 to clean water;

1 (iii) by reducing the risks posed by cli-
2 mate impacts; and

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

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

10 (i) by dramatically expanding and up-
11 grading renewable power sources; and

12 (ii) by deploying new capacity;

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

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

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

1 newable energy manufacturing and investing in
2 existing manufacturing and industry;

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

8 (i) by supporting family farming;

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

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

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

20 (i) zero-emission vehicle and non-mo-
21 torized alternative modes of transportation
22 infrastructure and manufacturing;

23 (ii) clean, affordable, and accessible
24 public transit; and

25 (iii) high-speed rail;

1 (I) mitigating and managing the long-term
2 adverse health, economic, and other effects of
3 pollution and climate change, including by pro-
4 viding funding for community-defined projects
5 and strategies;

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

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

16 (L) cleaning up existing hazardous waste
17 sites and abandoned sites and ensuring eco-
18 nomic development and sustainability on those
19 sites;

20 (M) identifying other emission and pollu-
21 tion sources and creating solutions to remove
22 them; and

23 (N) promoting the international exchange
24 of technology, expertise, products, funding, and
25 services, with the aim of making the United

1 States the international leader on climate action
2 and to help other countries achieve a Green
3 New Deal;

4 (3) a Green New Deal must be developed
5 through transparent and inclusive consultation, col-
6 laboration, and partnership with frontline and vul-
7 nerable communities, labor organizations, worker co-
8 operatives, civil society groups, academia, and busi-
9 nesses; and

10 (4) to achieve the Green New Deal goals and
11 mobilization, a Green New Deal will require—

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

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

1 (i) existing laws;
2 (ii) new policies and programs; and
3 (iii) ensuring that frontline and vul-
4 nerable communities shall not be adversely
5 affected;

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

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

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

1 (F) ensuring the use of democratic and
2 participatory processes that are inclusive of and
3 led by frontline and vulnerable communities and
4 workers to plan, implement, and administer the
5 Green New Deal mobilization at the local level;

6 (G) ensuring that the Green New Deal mo-
7 bilization creates high-quality union jobs that
8 pay prevailing wages, hires local workers, offers
9 training and advancement opportunities, and
10 guarantees direct replacement of lost wages,
11 health care, retirement, and other benefits for
12 workers affected by the transition;

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

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

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

1 (K) enacting and enforcing trade rules,
2 procurement standards, and border adjustments
3 with strong labor and environmental protec-
4 tions—

5 (i) to stop the transfer of jobs and
6 pollution overseas; and

7 (ii) to grow domestic manufacturing
8 in the United States;

9 (L) ensuring that public lands, waters, and
10 oceans are protected and that eminent domain
11 is not abused;

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

19 (N) ensuring a commercial environment
20 where every businessperson is free from unfair
21 competition and domination by domestic or
22 international monopolies; and

23 (O) providing all people of the United
24 States with—

25 (i) high-quality health care;

- 1 (ii) affordable, safe, and adequate
- 2 housing;
- 3 (iii) economic security; and
- 4 (iv) clean water, clean air, healthy and
- 5 affordable food, and access to nature.

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