

House Resolution 115 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 115

BY ISENHART, GASKILL, NIELSEN, OLDSON, STAED, and
PRICHARD

1 A Resolution urging the Governor of Iowa to take all
2 necessary actions for the State of Iowa to become a
3 member of the United States Climate Alliance.

4 WHEREAS, 195 countries signed the Paris Agreement
5 on Climate Change, which aims to strengthen the global
6 response to the threat of climate change, including by
7 holding the increase in the global average temperature
8 to less than 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial
9 levels; and

10 WHEREAS, the United States signed the Paris
11 Agreement, which builds upon the United Nations
12 Framework Convention on Climate Change and recruits
13 governments to the common cause of ambitiously
14 combatting climate change by limiting global
15 temperature increases, by dealing with climate impacts,
16 and by adapting to its effects; and

17 WHEREAS, the current presidential administration has
18 announced its intent to withdraw the United States from
19 the Paris Agreement; and

20 WHEREAS, only international cooperation to reduce
21 greenhouse gas emissions can mitigate climate
22 impacts; and

23 WHEREAS, 15 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto
24 Rico have joined the United States Climate Alliance,
25 committing to the goal of reducing greenhouse gas
26 emissions consistent with the goals of the Paris
27 Agreement; and

1 WHEREAS, the Iowa Climate Change Advisory Council,
2 which was created by the Iowa Department of Natural
3 Resources, submitted proposals to the Governor and the
4 General Assembly addressing a full range of policies
5 and strategies, including the cost-effectiveness of the
6 strategies and multiple scenarios designed to reduce
7 statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent or
8 more by 2050; and

9 WHEREAS, since the council's report, researchers and
10 educators from nearly every Iowa college and university
11 have jointly produced annual statements on the impact
12 of climate change on Iowans; and

13 WHEREAS, the United States Climate Alliance agenda
14 includes addressing matters critical to Iowa's future,
15 including advanced transportation, natural and working
16 lands, the role of utilities, appliance efficiency
17 standards, the competitiveness of renewable energy,
18 clean energy financing, insurance risk, pollution
19 control, and community resilience; and

20 WHEREAS, Iowa's participation in the United States
21 Climate Alliance will help the state achieve the goals
22 of the Iowa Energy Plan developed under the leadership
23 of then Lieutenant Governor Kim Reynolds by the Iowa
24 Economic Development Authority and the Iowa Department
25 of Transportation, which aspires to collaborate
26 locally, grow sustainably, and lead nationally,
27 consistent with the aspiration that now is the time to
28 continue to build on Iowa's energy-related successes
29 by charting a sustainable and predictable course for
30 tomorrow; and

1 WHEREAS, the General Assembly and former Governor
2 Terry E. Branstad approved legislation moving the
3 Iowa Energy Center to the Iowa Economic Development
4 Authority, strengthening the capacity of state
5 government to implement the Iowa Energy Plan and
6 to provide national leadership in the modern energy
7 sector; and

8 WHEREAS, the Iowa Economic Development Authority's
9 City Energy Management Program works with participating
10 communities to create energy action plans, establish
11 the financial case to invest in energy efficiency,
12 and develop a steady source of funding for energy
13 efficiency projects; and

14 WHEREAS, the Iowa Utilities Board and Office of
15 Consumer Advocate have maintained an ongoing Energy
16 Efficiency Collaborative, and the board has opened
17 an inquiry into the potential for widespread use of
18 distributed energy resources in Iowa; and

19 WHEREAS, Iowa's public universities have engaged
20 in a five-year project funded by the National Science
21 Foundation to build Iowa's research capacity in
22 sustainable energy systems, supporting studies in
23 bioenergy, wind energy, energy utilization, and energy
24 policy in partnership with the state's community
25 colleges, private colleges, school districts,
26 government agencies, and industries; and

27 WHEREAS, Iowa State University's Bioeconomy
28 Institute, which supports Iowa agriculture in the
29 state's quest for sustainable sources of fuel, energy,
30 chemicals, and material, and other researchers are part

1 of the New Carbon Economy Consortium launched by the
2 Center for Carbon Removal, a partnership of research
3 institutions with the goal of removing carbon dioxide
4 from the atmosphere and converting it into valuable
5 products and services; and

6 WHEREAS, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources
7 has successfully led an interagency, public-private
8 stakeholder group to coordinate development of efforts
9 to reduce carbon emissions in Iowa and regionally in
10 accordance with the federal Clean Power Plan; and

11 WHEREAS, as elected officials representing
12 legislative districts, members of the House of
13 Representatives are willing to convene constituents and
14 stakeholders to collaborate locally and are willing
15 to partner with the executive branch to make the Iowa
16 Energy Plan a reality, thereby helping Iowa do its
17 part to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement; NOW
18 THEREFORE,

19 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
20 That the House of Representatives urges Governor
21 Kim Reynolds to take all necessary actions for the
22 State of Iowa to become a member of, participate in,
23 and maintain membership in the United States Climate
24 Alliance.