

House Resolution 111 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 111

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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 initiated the formal process to withdraw the United
19 States from the Paris Agreement; and

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

1 WHEREAS, 24 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto
2 Rico have joined the United States Climate Alliance,
3 committing to the goal of reducing greenhouse gas
4 emissions consistent with the goals of the Paris
5 Agreement; and

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

14 WHEREAS, since the council's report, researchers and
15 educators from nearly every Iowa college and university
16 have jointly produced annual statements on the impact
17 of climate change on Iowans; and

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

25 WHEREAS, Iowa's participation in the United States
26 Climate Alliance will help the state achieve the goals
27 of the Iowa Energy Plan developed under the leadership
28 of then Lieutenant Governor Kim Reynolds by the Iowa
29 Economic Development Authority and the Iowa Department
30 of Transportation, which aspires to collaborate

1 locally, grow sustainably, and lead nationally,
2 consistent with the aspiration that now is the time to
3 continue to build on Iowa's energy-related successes
4 by charting a sustainable and predictable course for
5 tomorrow; and

6 WHEREAS, the General Assembly and former Governor
7 Terry E. Branstad approved legislation moving the
8 Iowa Energy Center to the Iowa Economic Development
9 Authority, strengthening the capacity of state
10 government to implement the Iowa Energy Plan and
11 to provide national leadership in the modern energy
12 sector; and

13 WHEREAS, the Iowa Economic Development Authority's
14 City Energy Management Program worked with
15 participating communities to create energy action
16 plans, establish the financial case to invest in energy
17 efficiency, and develop a steady source of funding for
18 energy efficiency projects; and

19 WHEREAS, the Iowa Economic Development Authority
20 continues to encourage energy efficiency initiatives
21 at the local level through Iowa's B3 Public Buildings
22 Benchmarking Program, by conducting Certified Energy
23 Managers Training, by operating an energy efficiency
24 program for rural small businesses, and by offering
25 grants to support energy efficient homes; and

26 WHEREAS, the Iowa Economic Development Authority's
27 Community Development Division issued a request for
28 proposals for bidders to conduct an assessment of the
29 economic development potential of energy storage in
30 Iowa beginning in 2020; and

1 WHEREAS, the General Assembly created an incentive
2 for individuals to adopt carbon-free energy production
3 in residences by reauthorizing a geothermal heat pump
4 tax credit in 2019; and

5 WHEREAS, the Iowa Utilities Board and Office of
6 Consumer Advocate have maintained an ongoing Energy
7 Efficiency Collaborative, and the board has opened
8 an inquiry into the potential for widespread use of
9 distributed energy resources in Iowa; and

10 WHEREAS, Iowa's public universities have engaged
11 in a five-year project funded by the National Science
12 Foundation to build Iowa's research capacity in
13 sustainable energy systems, supporting studies in
14 bioenergy, wind energy, energy utilization, and energy
15 policy in partnership with the state's community
16 colleges, private colleges, school districts,
17 government agencies, and industries; and

18 WHEREAS, Iowa State University's Bioeconomy
19 Institute, which supports Iowa agriculture in the
20 state's quest for sustainable sources of fuel, energy,
21 chemicals, and material, and other researchers are part
22 of the New Carbon Economy Consortium launched by the
23 Center for Carbon Removal, a partnership of research
24 institutions with the goal of removing carbon dioxide
25 from the atmosphere and converting it into valuable
26 products and services; and

27 WHEREAS, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources
28 has successfully led an interagency, public-private
29 stakeholder group to coordinate development of efforts
30 to reduce carbon emissions in Iowa and regionally in

1 accordance with the federal Clean Power Plan; and
2 WHEREAS, as elected officials representing
3 legislative districts, members of the House of
4 Representatives are willing to convene constituents and
5 stakeholders to collaborate locally and are willing
6 to partner with the executive branch to make the Iowa
7 Energy Plan a reality, thereby helping Iowa do its
8 part to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement; NOW
9 THEREFORE,

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
11 That the House of Representatives urges Governor
12 Kim Reynolds to take all necessary actions for the
13 State of Iowa to become a member of, participate in,
14 and maintain membership in the United States Climate
15 Alliance.