

# House Resolution 122 - Introduced

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 122

BY ISENHART, ABDUL-SAMAD, OLSON, KURTH, HUNTER, THEDE,  
BENNETT, ANDERSON, STAED, STECKMAN, WILLIAMS, HALL,  
McCONKEY, COHOON, WESSEL-KROESCHELL, SUNDE, EHLERT,  
BROWN-POWERS, KRESSIG, CAHILL, WILBURN, and DONAHUE

1 A Resolution urging the Governor and executive

2 agencies to use federal funding to support climate  
3 adaptation, resilience, and equity in Iowa.

4 WHEREAS, climate change is impacting Iowa with an  
5 increased frequency of extreme weather events likely to  
6 result in unprecedented risks, damages, and costs for  
7 our residents and communities; and

8 WHEREAS, Iowa has already lost billions of dollars  
9 as a result of extreme weather events that scientists  
10 have attributed in part to climate change, including  
11 flooding, heavy and damaging rain events, unprecedented  
12 windstorms, and drought; and

13 WHEREAS, from 2017 through 2021, the United States  
14 has incurred more than \$765 billion in losses due to  
15 extreme weather disasters that individually exceeded \$1  
16 billion in damages, which disasters include Missouri  
17 River flooding and two derechos in Iowa, accounting for  
18 almost 35 percent of all such major losses nationwide  
19 since 1980; and

20 WHEREAS, the Iowa Department of Homeland Security  
21 has documented that Iowa has received approximately  
22 \$2.5 billion from the federal government since 1992 for  
23 hazard mitigation and public assistance in response  
24 to damages to public infrastructure resulting from  
25 blizzards, floods, tornadoes, derechos, and other

1 severe storms; and

2 WHEREAS, Iowa farmers have received \$243 million  
3 in insurance payments for flooded and weather-damaged  
4 crops between 2001 and 2020, which does not include  
5 other federal aid such as livestock forage disaster  
6 relief payments for animal feed losses due to severe  
7 drought; and

8 WHEREAS, these damages and costs will continue  
9 growing without public action to decarbonize our  
10 economy and our atmosphere, saddling state and local  
11 governments and future generations with extreme  
12 financial burdens, negatively impacting the health,  
13 resilience, and quality of life of Iowans; and

14 WHEREAS, numerous cities in Iowa, including Dubuque,  
15 Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, Iowa City, and Waterloo, have  
16 passed climate action and sustainability plans; and

17 WHEREAS, steps can be taken now to both further  
18 reduce Iowa's contributions to climate change and  
19 to protect against the impacts of climate change in  
20 equitable ways that protect our natural resources and  
21 our most vulnerable citizens; and

22 WHEREAS, with the passing of the federal  
23 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, in addition to  
24 other proposals for federal climate-related funding  
25 for states, Iowa has more than \$5 billion at our  
26 disposal over the next five years from 350 federal  
27 infrastructure and climate-related programs, providing  
28 opportunities to address these challenges and improve  
29 the resilience of our state; NOW THEREFORE,

30 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

1 That the House of Representatives urges the Governor  
2 and the executive agencies to optimize climate  
3 adaptation, resilience, and equity outcomes for  
4 residents, businesses, and communities of Iowa by using  
5 federal funding provided by the federal Infrastructure  
6 Investment and Jobs Act and other federal sources; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of  
8 Representatives encourages the Governor to establish an  
9 infrastructure task force made up of relevant agencies  
10 and departments to coordinate efforts to ensure state  
11 programs implement federal funding effectively to  
12 advance the state's climate adaptation, resilience, and  
13 equity goals; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the infrastructure task  
15 force publishes guidelines for projects to be designed  
16 and implemented consistently with Iowa's climate  
17 adaptation, resilience, and equity goals, including by  
18 prioritizing construction, renovation, and retrofit  
19 projects that advance sustainability and resilience of  
20 buildings, public infrastructure, communities, and our  
21 natural resources; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of  
23 Representatives encourages the Governor to take steps  
24 to ensure that communities, school districts, nonprofit  
25 organizations, and other eligible recipients of federal  
26 funding, particularly those entities representing  
27 disadvantaged populations, have timely information and  
28 technical assistance related to applying for funding,  
29 both funding granted through the state and directly  
30 through federal agencies, and that the State of Iowa

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1 encourages and incentivizes these recipients to apply  
2 awarded federal funding to effectively coordinate with  
3 and advance Iowa's climate adaptation, resilience, and  
4 equity goals; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the infrastructure task  
6 force collects and makes publicly available relevant  
7 metrics about actions taken in accordance with this  
8 resolution and the results of such actions.