

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009**

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HOUSE RESOLUTION DRHR11058-SYz-6* (01/18)

Sponsors: Representatives Harrison, Underhill, and Wilkins (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT AND THE UNITED STATES
2 CONGRESS TO ADOPT LEGISLATION THAT PROMOTES JOBS AND
3 INNOVATIVE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT, STRENGTHENS NATIONAL ENERGY
4 AND ECONOMIC SECURITY, POSITIONS THE UNITED STATES TO BE AN
5 INTERNATIONAL LEADER IN THE FIELD OF CLEAN ENERGY, AND
6 ADDRESSES THE CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE WITHOUT
7 PREEMPTING STATES' RIGHTS TO CONTROL EMISSIONS AND TO PROMOTE
8 RENEWABLE ENERGY, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE
9 COMMISSION ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE.

10 Whereas, most of the world's climate scientists have concluded that greenhouse
11 gasses are causing the Earth's temperature to rise, resulting in global climate change; and

12 Whereas, in 2006 over 20% of the world's total energy-related carbon dioxide was
13 emitted by the United States, and 87% of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States were
14 related to fossil fuel combustion; and

15 Whereas, electricity generation and transportation are the two largest sources of
16 total greenhouse gas emissions in the United States and are responsible for approximately 39%
17 and 31%, respectively, of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions from the combustion of fossil
18 fuels; and

19 Whereas, high oil prices reduce the purchasing power of American consumers, spur
20 inflation, and boost the prices of basic goods and services; and

21 Whereas, the effects of unchecked climate change pose a threat to our nation's
22 economy, public health, environment, and national security; and

23 Whereas, potential impacts of climate change include variability of precipitation,
24 sea level rise, inundation of coastal communities, degradation of air quality, damage to
25 infrastructure, and loss of plant and animal species; and

26 Whereas, climate change will directly affect industries, including tourism,
27 agriculture, forestry, fishing, and skiing, and will disproportionately affect communities with
28 limited resources to adapt and cope; and

29 Whereas, climate changes are already underway in the United States, are projected
30 to grow, and include increased variability in precipitation, rising temperature and sea level,
31 retreating glaciers, thawing permafrost, lengthening growing seasons, lengthening ice-free
32 seasons in the ocean and on lakes and rivers, earlier snowmelt, and alterations in river flow; and

33 Whereas, climate change impacts will include increased heat, pests, water stress,
34 diseases, and weather extremes that will pose adaptation challenges for crop and livestock
35 production; and



1 Whereas, climate change will create health impacts related to heat stress,
2 waterborne diseases, poor air quality, extreme weather events, and diseases transmitted by
3 insects and rodents; and

4 Whereas, the effects of climate change include the increase of political and social
5 instability in poorer regions of the world, thus presenting potential security challenges for the
6 United States; and

7 Whereas, clean energy jobs are growing at a rate 250% faster than the rest of the
8 economy; and

9 Whereas, the United States Energy Information Administration projects clean
10 energy job growth of up to 2,000,000 new jobs resulting from comprehensive clean energy
11 legislation; and

12 Whereas, the generation of electricity through the use of renewable energy presents
13 opportunities to promote energy self-sufficiency, create jobs and economic benefits, preserve
14 natural resources, and improve the environment; and

15 Whereas, there is significant global competition for clean energy development that
16 could weaken the United States economy and threaten American innovation without
17 comprehensive clean energy legislation; and

18 Whereas, thousands of businesses, including, among others, members of the United
19 States Climate Action Partnership and the Clean Economy Network, have joined together
20 calling for comprehensive federal clean energy legislation; and

21 Whereas, over the past two decades, in the absence of comprehensive federal clean
22 energy legislation, the states have been the true "laboratories of democracy" by advancing clean
23 energy policies; and

24 Whereas, many states have adopted renewable energy standards and goals that
25 require a significant percentage of a state's electricity to be generated from renewable energy
26 sources such as wind, solar, wave, hydropower, biomass, and biofuels, which sources have led
27 to significant job growth in the clean energy sector of the national economy; and

28 Whereas, state leadership has resulted in job growth and has reduced reliance on
29 imported energy sources, thus resulting in opportunities for renewed economic development;
30 and

31 Whereas, in 2002, the General Assembly enacted S.L. 2002-4, commonly referred
32 to as the Clean Smokestacks Act, that directed the public utilities in the State to substantially
33 reduce their emissions of traditional air pollutants and directed State agencies to begin the
34 process of identifying steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

35 Whereas, in accordance with the Clean Smokestacks Act, the Division of Air
36 Quality of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources has
37 completed studies and made recommendations regarding greenhouse gas emissions and steps
38 that can be taken to reduce emissions in the State; and

39 Whereas, in 2005, the General Assembly established the Legislative Commission on
40 Global Climate Change to study issues related to global climate change, the emerging carbon
41 economy, and whether it is appropriate and desirable for the State to establish a greenhouse gas
42 emissions pollutant reduction goal; and

43 Whereas, in 2007, the General Assembly established the first Renewable Energy
44 and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (REPS) in the Southeastern United States in order to
45 promote the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency in the State; and

46 Whereas, in accordance with the REPS requirements, electric power providers in the
47 State must use an increasing percentage of renewable energy resources and employ energy
48 efficiency programs to meet a minimum of 12.5% of the needs of the State's retail electricity
49 customers by 2021; and

1 Whereas, in 2007, the General Assembly established the North Carolina Green
2 Business Fund to promote small businesses that develop and expand the biofuels industry, the
3 green building industry, clean technology, and renewable energy products and businesses; and

4 Whereas, in 2009, the General Assembly established the Legislative Research
5 Commission Advisory Subcommittee on Offshore Energy Exploration to study issues related to
6 oil and natural gas exploration and development off the North Carolina coast, as well as the
7 potential impacts of alternative offshore energy projects on the nation's energy supply,
8 including energy generated from wind, waves, ocean currents, the sun, and hydrogen
9 production; and

10 Whereas, North Carolina has enacted, expanded, and renewed numerous tax credits
11 and incentive programs in order to promote the development and utilization of renewable
12 energy technologies and facilities in the State; and

13 Whereas, a national statutory framework for clean energy will provide a predictable
14 regulatory framework that will provide better clarity for decision making and spur innovation
15 in the clean energy sector; and

16 Whereas, without Congressional action, the United States Environmental Protection
17 Agency has announced its intention to regulate greenhouse gas emissions through
18 administrative rules rather than through legislation; and

19 Whereas, the United States House of Representatives passed the American Clean
20 Energy and Security Act (H.R. 2454) on June 26, 2009, on a bipartisan vote, and bipartisan
21 members of the United States Senate are currently considering and drafting the Clean Energy
22 Jobs and American Power Act (S. 1733); and

23 Whereas, the United States Congress has the opportunity to enact comprehensive
24 clean energy jobs and climate legislation that will strengthen our national security, grow clean
25 energy jobs, reduce pollution, and advance America; Now, therefore,
26 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

27 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly urges the United States Congress to pass and
28 the President to sign comprehensive clean energy jobs and climate legislation that: (i) creates a
29 unified framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions; (ii) protects low- and moderate-
30 income Americans from increased energy costs and invests substantially in energy efficiency;
31 (iii) supports alternative sources of energy, including, but not limited to, wind, solar, wave,
32 hydroelectricity, biofuels, advanced nuclear energy research, and clean coal technologies; (iv)
33 acknowledges the carbon-intensive nature of the economy of the United States and includes
34 emissions offsets that protect energy consumers; and (v) does not preempt State legislative
35 efforts to control carbon emissions and to advance clean energy innovations.

36 **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State of North Carolina shall prepare and transmit
37 copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the President and the Secretary of
38 the United States Senate, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of
39 Representatives, and North Carolina's senators and representatives in Congress.

40 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.