

Resolve 9-18/19

Passage: 8-0 (Ray absent) on 2/4/2019

Effective 2/14/2019

ETHAN K. STRIMLING (MAYOR)  
BELINDA S. RAY (1)  
SPENCER R. THIBODEAU (2)  
BRIAN E. BATSON (3)  
JUSTIN COSTA (4)

**CITY OF PORTLAND**  
**IN THE CITY COUNCIL**

KIMBERLY COOK (5)  
JILL C. DUSON (A/L)  
PIOUS ALI (A/L)  
NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES, JR (A/L)

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT AND SEEKING  
SUPPORT FROM THE UNITED STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**WHEREAS**, by Resolve 7-16/17 on May 1, 2017, the Portland City Council resolved to run municipal operations on 100% clean energy by 2040; and

**WHEREAS**, by Resolve 9-17/18 on April 9, 2018, the Portland City Council has adopted ambitious climate and energy goals to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has already taken steps to require more efficient energy use and to transition the City to renewable energy, including by making energy upgrades in municipal buildings, adoption of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, installing a large scale solar array on the closed landfill, and adopting an Energy Benchmarking Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is collaborating with the City of South Portland to develop a climate action and adaptation plan that will identify energy projects and policies to help each city reach its ambitious climate goals; and

**WHEREAS**, the 4th National Climate Assessment (NCA) and the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, show that climate change is already having a drastic impact on our health and our economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Congress has an opportunity to enact programs and policies that will drive investment in clean energy thereby creating jobs that help build a sustainable future; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Congress has further opportunity to help states and cities build resilient infrastructure in order to prepare for the impacts of climate change, thereby creating additional jobs that protect the long-term well-being of local communities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of Portland hereby requests that the United States House of Representatives support strong climate action, take actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote energy efficiency, as detailed in the attached letter addressed to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Congresswoman from California's 12th District; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of the attached letter be mailed, with a final copy of this Resolution, to Speaker Pelosi at her Washington, D.C. Office and to the entire Maine Federal Delegation upon passage by the Portland City Council.

Representative Nancy Pelosi  
1236 Longworth HOB  
Washington DC, 20515

CC: Senator Angus King, Senator Susan Collins, Representative Chellie Pingree, Representative Jared Golden

February 4, 2019

Dear Speaker Pelosi and the 116th Congress:

Congratulations on your win as Speaker of the House. As you prepare to establish your priorities for the new Congress and Democratic House majority, we would like to thank you for your leadership on the fight to address climate change and ask for your continued support in the first hundred days of the 116th Congress. Businesses, communities, and American families who have been leading the way are looking forward to having a partner in the federal government as we address the shared U.S. and global challenge of climate change.

Reports released this year, including the Trump administration's own 4th National Climate Assessment (NCA) and the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, show that climate change is already having a drastic impact on our health and our economy. These reports only further underscore the need to take action now.

Since President Trump announced his intention to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement nearly two years ago, we, the undersigned Mayors, county executives, governors, tribal leaders, businesses, faith groups, investors and nonprofit organizations have joined forces to tell the world that we are still committed to meeting America's pledge on climate. In the absence of federal leadership, 3,600 leaders from states, cities, and businesses, representing more than half of the U.S. economy and population, are working locally to adopt and meet targets for reducing the pollution driving climate change - cutting 500 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year by 2025 if targets are fully implemented.

As the NCA and other recent reports predict, the impacts of climate change will become even more catastrophic if we continue to ignore this imminent threat. That's why we are already taking action to meet our U.S. commitments to reduce carbon pollution, and we are finding innovative ways to adapt to the impacts we are already experiencing. Developing solutions to limit the effects of climate change makes good economic sense and is necessary to protect citizens, workers, and communities, particularly communities of color and vulnerable populations like the elderly, the young, pregnant women and those living close to pollution sources who are most directly affected by the devastating impacts of climate change.

The businesses and communities moving forward with clean energy solutions are already seeing the benefits. Since June 2017, the U.S. has added enough renewable energy to power more than 3 million homes for a year. States are implementing policies that could save customers \$16 billion per year by 2035, investing in energy efficiency, and saving consumers 7.3 percent on their electricity bills.

Governors in key states are asserting ambitious leadership on climate and clean energy. The U.S. Climate Alliance now includes 17 governors from both parties who are committed to meeting their states' Paris Accord climate goals. Hundreds of mayors in almost every state in the country are committing to a range of climate actions. Here in Portland, ME we have committed to run our city on 100 percent clean energy by 2040. We have also pledged to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from our community 80% by 2050. Governors and mayors across the country have also committed to reducing emissions from transportation, the top source of climate pollution. This includes supporting strong federal vehicle standards and transitioning vehicle fleets to electric vehicles, which demonstrates to auto manufacturers that there is a committed market for zero-pollution vehicles.

This new Congress has a tremendous opportunity in its first 100 days to take leadership protect on the global state and to protect our health and economy. You have the opportunity to address the inequality and injustice that exists in this country by investing in solutions that ensure communities bearing the worst brunt of pollution are invested in and benefit from the transition to clean energy.

Thank you for your attention to the urgent issue of climate change. We look forward to working with you on an ambitious climate agenda.

Sincerely,

Ethan K. Strimling, Mayor, and members of the Portland City Council