

State of Vermont

House of Representatives

Montpelier, Vermont



Joint House Resolution

J.R.H. 20

Joint resolution requesting the Governor to advocate for a regional carbon tax and to convene the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative states to discuss the development and implementation of this tax

Offered by: Representatives Masland of Thetford, Briglin of Thetford, Burke of Brattleboro, Carr of Brandon, Christie of Hartford, Clarkson of Woodstock, Deen of Westminster, Emmons of Springfield, Evans of Essex, Forguites of Springfield, French of Randolph, Gonzalez of Winooski, Head of South Burlington, Hooper of Montpelier, Huntley of Cavendish, LaLonde of South Burlington, Macaig of Williston, Manwaring of Wilmington, Martel of Waterford, McCullough of Williston, Mrowicki of Putney, Patt of Worcester, Ram of Burlington, Russell of Rutland City, Sheldon of Middlebury, Sullivan of Burlington, Sweaney of Windsor, Townsend of South Burlington, Troiano of Stannard, Yantachka of Charlotte, and Zagar of Barnard

Whereas, greenhouse gases are “any of the atmospheric gases that contribute to the greenhouse effect by absorbing infrared radiation produced by solar warming of the Earth’s surface,” such as carbon dioxide, and

Whereas, the General Assembly, in 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 89, Sec. 1(8), stated “Vermont must act to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and consumption of fossil fuels,” and

Whereas, emitting greenhouse gases contributes to global warming that in turn leads to, among other problems, dangerously rising sea levels, and an increase in extreme weather events and heavy precipitation that causes risk to public safety and the environment, and

Whereas, fossil fuels are a prime source of greenhouse gases, and users of fossil fuels do not necessarily compensate for the environmental damage these fuels cause, and

Whereas, most economists agree that a tax on fossil fuel energy sources, also termed a carbon tax, would reduce these harmful emissions significantly, and

Whereas, the Canadian province of British Columbia introduced a revenue-neutral carbon tax that started at \$10.00 per ton of carbon dioxide in 2008 and by 2012 rose to \$30.00 per ton, and

Whereas, from 2008 to 2012, British Columbia experienced a 17.4 percent reduction in fossil fuel consumption, and the per capita emissions from sources subject to the tax dropped 10 percent, and

Whereas, since institution of the carbon tax, British Columbia’s economy has kept pace or slightly outperformed the rest of Canada’s economy, and

Whereas, Vermont is part of a nine-state Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) that places a cap on carbon emissions from utilities, and allows the utilities to trade carbon credits within the cap, and

Whereas, RGGI provides an example of interstate cooperation that addresses climate change, and

Whereas, a regional carbon tax would result in a greater reduction in greenhouse gas emissions than a Vermont-only carbon tax and would address cross-border issues that might otherwise arise, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly requests the Governor to advocate for a regional carbon tax and convene a meeting of officials from RGGI states to discuss the development and implementation of this tax, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor, the Commissioner of Public Service, and the Commissioner of Taxes.

Shapleigh Smith, Jr.
Speaker of the House

Attested to:

Phil Scott
President of the Senate

William M. MaGill
Clerk, House of Representatives

**J.R.H. 20 JOINT RESOLUTION
REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR
TO ADVOCATE FOR A REGIONAL
CARBON TAX AND TO CONVENE
THE REGIONAL GREENHOUSE
GAS INITIATIVE STATES TO
DISCUSS THE DEVELOPMENT
AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS TAX**

Offered by: Representative Masland of Thetford, et al.