

# State of Vermont House of Representatives

Montpelier, Vermont



## Joint House Resolution

J.R.H. 6

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, Bartholomew of Hartland, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Colburn of Burlington, Hooper of Brookfield, McCormack of Burlington, Sheldon of Middlebury, Squirrell of Underhill, Sullivan of Burlington, and Yantachka of Charlotte

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, many 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, early in 2016, more than 150 companies wrote British Columbia Premier Christy Clark a letter supporting an increase of the province’s carbon tax by the amount of \$10.00 Canadian per metric ton starting in July 2018, 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.