

# State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

## House Resolution

H.R. 15

House resolution strongly opposing the announced U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and recognizing Governor Philip Scott's enrolling Vermont in the U.S. Climate Alliance

Offered by: Representatives Sullivan of Burlington, Deen of Westminster, Ancel of Calais, Bartholomew of Hartland, Botzow of Pownal, Briglin of Thetford, Browning of Arlington, Buckholz of Hartford, Burke of Brattleboro, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Christensen of Weathersfield, Cina of Burlington, Colburn of Burlington, Conlon of Cornwall, Connor of Fairfield, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Donahue of Northfield, Donovan of Burlington, Dunn of Essex, Emmons of Springfield, Feltus of Lyndon, Forguites of Springfield, Gannon of Wilmington, Gardner of Richmond, Giambatista of Essex, Gonzalez of Winooski, Grad of Moretown, Greshin of Warren, Haas of Rochester, Head of South Burlington, Hill of Wolcott, Hooper of Montpelier, Hooper of Brookfield, Houghton of Essex, Jickling of Brookfield, Keenan of St. Albans City, Krowinski of Burlington, LaLonde of South Burlington, Lanpher of Vergennes, Long of Newfane, Lucke of Hartford, Masland of Thetford, McCormack of Burlington, McCullough of Williston, Miller of Shaftsbury, Mrowicki of Putney, Murphy of Fairfax, Ode of Burlington, Partridge of Windham, Pugh of South Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Scheu of Middlebury, Sharpe of Bristol, Sheldon of Middlebury, Squirrell of Underhill, Stevens of Waterbury, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sullivan of Dorset, Till of Jericho, Townsend of South Burlington, Trieber of Rockingham, Webb of Shelburne, Weed of Enosburgh, Wood of Waterbury, Yacovone of Morristown, Yantachka of Charlotte, and Young of Glover

Whereas, according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and multiple research studies, "scientific evidence for warming of the climate system is unequivocal," and that "ninety-seven percent of climate scientists agree that climate warming trends over the past century are very likely due to human activities," and

Whereas, according to NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 2016 was the warmest year since modern meteorological record keeping began in 1880, and that 16 of the 17 warmest years on record have occurred since 2001, and

Whereas, in December 2015, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change established the Paris Climate Agreement (the Agreement) that was entered into force in October 2016 and that as of June 8, 2017 consists of 148 countries, including the United States, and

Whereas, the central purpose of the Agreement is to limit the 21st century air temperature increase to less than two degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels while working to keep the increase to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius, and

Whereas, as part of its participation in the Agreement, the United States pledged to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions 26–28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025 and to contribute \$3 billion to climate change assistance to poorer nations by 2020, and

Whereas, on June 1, 2017, President Trump announced that the United States would invoke the Agreement’s withdrawal process, and

Whereas, the withdrawal of the United States from the Agreement will create a serious impediment to the international effort to address the planet’s projected increase in temperature, and

Whereas, Governor Philip Scott, U.S. Senators Patrick Leahy and Bernard Sanders, and U.S. Representative Peter Welch each strongly criticized the withdrawal decision, and

Whereas, Attorney General Thomas J. Donovan is among the state attorneys general who have publicly committed to the implementation of the Agreement, and

Whereas, Governors Jay Inslee of Washington State, Edmund G. (Jerry) Brown of California, and Andrew M. Cuomo of New York organized a bipartisan group of governors, known as the U.S. Climate Alliance (the Alliance), committed to the implementation of the Agreement, and other governors, including Governor Philip Scott, have since joined, and

Whereas, in 1990, Vermont emitted a total of 8.11 million metric tons of greenhouse gases, and although this amount rose to 9.4 million metric tons in 2004, by 2012 it had dropped to 8.27 metric tons, and

Whereas, 10 V.S.A. § 578 establishes a goal for Vermont to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 50 percent below the 1990 level on or before January 1, 2028, and the Comprehensive Energy Plan, as required in accordance with 30 V.S.A. § 202b, establishes a further goal of an 80 to 95 percent reduction by 2050, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body strongly opposes the announced withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and be it further

Resolved: That this legislative body recognizes Governor Philip Scott’s enrolling Vermont in the Alliance and urges him to support State ~~funding and~~ policies to enable Vermont’s commitment to the greenhouse gas emissions reduction provisions of the Agreement to be realized, and be it further

Resolved: That it is imperative that Vermont uphold its commitment to the newly formed Alliance by reducing the State’s reliance on fossil fuels and by meeting the greenhouse gas reduction goals established in statute for 2028 and in the Comprehensive Energy Plan for 2050, and be it further

Resolved: That this legislative body is prepared to work with the Governor, diverse stakeholders, and all Vermonters to identify and implement the policies, programs, and approaches annually required to achieve the State’s greenhouse gas reduction commitments, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to President Donald Trump, to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt, to Governor Jay Inslee of Washington State, to Governor Jerry Brown of California, to Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York, to Governor Philip Scott, to Attorney General Thomas J. Donovan Jr., and to the Vermont Congressional Delegation.