

House Concurrent Resolution No. 5022

By Representative Xu

2-12

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION recognizing that the current global
2 climate crisis demands a massive mobilization to address, halt and
3 reverse its causes and prevent its consequences.

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5 WHEREAS, 2019 was the second hottest year on record according to
6 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National
7 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

8 WHEREAS, The preceding years, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018, are the
9 four other hottest years to date, and the 20 warmest years on record have
10 occurred within the past 22 years. Additionally, 2010 through 2019 was
11 the hottest decade ever recorded; and

12 WHEREAS, Global atmospheric concentrations of the primary heat-
13 trapping gas, carbon dioxide, have increased by 40% since pre-industrial
14 times, primarily due to human activity such as the burning of fossil fuels
15 and deforestation; and

16 WHEREAS, Current climate science and real-world observations of
17 climate change impacts, including ocean warming, ocean acidification,
18 floods, droughts, wildfires and extreme weather, demonstrate that a
19 global rise in temperature is now dangerously affecting human
20 populations and the environment; and

21 WHEREAS, The 2018 National Climate Assessment reported that
22 climate change has caused and is expected to cause additional, substantial
23 interference with infrastructure, property, industry, recreation, natural
24 resources, agricultural systems, health, safety and the quality of life; and

25 WHEREAS, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
26 has determined that climate change is already increasing the frequency of
27 extreme weather and other climate-related disasters including drought,
28 wildfire and storms; and

29 WHEREAS, Climate change is also a significant threat to health,
30 causing temperature-related

31 deaths and illnesses, air quality impacts, extreme weather events,
32 vector-borne diseases, waterborne illnesses, food safety, nutrition and
33 distribution complications, and behavioral and mental health

34 concerns; and

35 WHEREAS, Climate change holds grave and immediate
36 consequences not just for Kansans but

1 for communities across the world; and

2 WHEREAS, Communities in rural, urban and suburban areas are all
3 dramatically affected by

4 climate change, although the specific economic, health, social and
5 environmental impacts may vary; and

6 WHEREAS, Consequences of climate change disproportionately
7 impact already vulnerable

8 communities, such as children, the elderly and individuals with pre-
9 existing disabilities and health conditions; and

10 WHEREAS, Individuals and families experiencing income inequality
11 and poverty, institutional racism, gender and sexual orientation inequity,
12 poor infrastructure, lack of access to healthcare, housing, clean water and
13 food security, particularly communities of color, indigenous communities
14 and low-income communities, are often closest in proximity to
15 environmental stressors or sources of pollution; and

16 WHEREAS, These communities experience immense risk due to their
17 proximity to environmental hazards and stressors, waste and other
18 sources of pollution, are often the first exposed to the impacts of climate
19 change, and have the fewest resources to mitigate those impacts or to
20 relocate; and

21 WHEREAS, A response to the climate crisis requires just, fair and
22 equitable community transition policies and processes that should be
23 available to all communities, and should be rooted in principles of racial
24 equity, self-determination and democracy, as well as in the fundamental
25 human right to clean air and water, healthy food, adequate land, education
26 and shelter; and

27 WHEREAS, The Department of State and the Department of Defense
28 have identified climate change as a threat to national security, and the
29 Department of Homeland Security views climate change as a top
30 homeland security risk; and

31 WHEREAS, Climate change exacerbates many of the challenges
32 Kansas and the United States face; and

33 WHEREAS, In Kansas and across the United States, massive,
34 comprehensive and urgent governmental action is needed to respond to
35 the severe existing and projected economic, social, public health and
36 national security threats posed by the climate crisis; and

37 WHEREAS, Stabilizing the climate will require a massive scope and
38 scale of action involving unprecedented levels of public awareness,
39 unwaivering support and engagement, and focused deliberation that will
40 ensure the development and implementation of effective, just, fair and
41 equitable policies; and

42 WHEREAS, There is a great opportunity to create jobs in Kansas and
43 across the United States that will address the climate crisis and will

1 redound to a strong and viable economic future; and

2 WHEREAS, A number of local jurisdictions and governments in the
3 United States and across the world have already declared a climate crisis,
4 while some state and local governments are considering declaring a
5 climate crisis; and

6 WHEREAS, Individuals in vulnerable communities must be equitably
7 and actively engaged and prioritized in local climate mitigation planning,
8 policy and program; and

9 WHEREAS, State, local, and tribal governments must be supported in
10 their efforts to address the climate crisis, to develop a fossil fuel-free
11 economy and to make accountable those whose activities have
12 accelerated the climate crisis and who have benefited from delayed
13 action; and

14 WHEREAS, Reversing the impacts of the climate crisis requires a
15 collaborative response among federal, state and local governments; and

16 WHEREAS, As a driver of accelerated climate change, Kansas has an
17 obligation to mobilize at crisis speed its government and citizenry to
18 restore a safe climate and environment not just for our state but for
19 communities across the United States and the globe, particularly for the
20 young who have contributed the least to the crisis: Now, therefore,

21 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas,*
22 *the Senate concurring therein:* That we recognize that the current global
23 climate crisis demands a massive mobilization to address, halt and
24 reverse its causes and prevent its consequences; and

25 *Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the State of Kansas shall
26 send an enrolled copy of this resolution to Representative Xu.