

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10

2 INTRODUCED BY D. COFFIN

3

4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA STATING THAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS SCIENTIFICALLY VALID AND REPRESENTS AN
6 ECOLOGICAL THREAT.

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8 WHEREAS, scientific data reported by climatologists from the United States and numerous other nations
9 in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric
10 Administration unequivocally shows that anthropogenic or human-made climate change is factually documented
11 and supported by overwhelming scientific evidence; and

12 WHEREAS, data shows that the mean global temperature has increased by 1 degree C in the last 100
13 years, and the 50-year rate of change has doubled; and

14 WHEREAS, 7 of the 8 warmest years on record have occurred in the last 12 years, and the 10 warmest
15 years on record have occurred since 1995; and

16 WHEREAS, ocean heat levels are at a record high, and sea levels have increased by 20 centimeters
17 since 1900 and they are projected to increase by another 40 centimeters this century; and

18 WHEREAS, the oceans have absorbed enough carbon dioxide within the last 100 years to lower their
19 pH from 8.25 to 8.13, and a similar acidification is happening to soil; and

20 WHEREAS, the data shows that the rate of polar ice melting is accelerating, and estimates suggest that
21 the Arctic mass has decreased by 23% over the last 100 years; and

22 WHEREAS, the Northwest Passage between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans may be open throughout
23 the entire year in just 10 years; and

24 WHEREAS, nations are already making claims on the new territories, including oil and mineral leases
25 in the new Arctic Ocean; and

26 WHEREAS, Antarctic ice is melting twice as fast as previously estimated, with a 2.4 degree C
27 temperature increase since 1950; and

28 WHEREAS, the data shows that 10 of the highest named storm seasons in the Atlantic Ocean have
29 occurred in the last 15 years; and

30 WHEREAS, the United States land surface temperature has increased 1.5 to 2 degrees C in the last 100

1 years, and 2012 will be the hottest year ever for the lower 48 states; and

2 WHEREAS, November 2012 was the 36th consecutive warmer-than-average November, the 333rd
3 straight month of increasing monthly average temperatures, with ten of the warmest Novembers occurring in the
4 last twelve years, and July 2012 was the warmest July ever; and

5 WHEREAS, the increasing concentrations and increasing free energy content of climate change gases
6 in the atmosphere correlate with increasing anthropogenic or human-made activities, including extraction and
7 burning of solid or liquid carbon as potential energy with a subsequent transformation into atmospheric gases as
8 kinetic energy in the atmosphere; and

9 WHEREAS, the data clearly shows that the combination of increased land surface, atmospheric and
10 ocean temperatures, rising sea levels, and increased energy in storms all correlate with increased concentrations
11 of climate change gases in the atmosphere that result from human activities.

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13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
14 STATE OF MONTANA:

15 That the 63rd Legislature:

16 (1) recognizes that anthropogenic or human-made climate change is scientifically valid and represents
17 scientific fact;

18 (2) understands that anthropogenic climate change, manifesting as major changes in weather patterns
19 in North America, including Montana, has the potential to cause major socioeconomic and demographic
20 dislocations in Montana that can be construed as an ecological threat;

21 (3) compels state government and its affiliated agencies, with due consideration of Montana's economic
22 heritage and preservation of employment traditions, to employ, invent, and apply new technologies
23 commensurate with the conservation of resources in a manner that mitigates and adapts to climate change to
24 the best of our ability; and

25 (4) suggests that educators include anthropogenic climate change science in their science education
26 curricula.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the President
28 of the United States, the Montana Congressional Delegation, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate,
29 the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of the United States Department of
30 Energy, the administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Governor of the State of

1 Montana, the Commissioner of Higher Education, the Montana Board of Education, and the Office of Public
2 Instruction.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State, in coordination with the University System and
4 all state agencies, be encouraged to promote this resolution by encouraging the University System and state
5 agencies to provide copies of this resolution to University System employees, state employees, and Montana
6 university students.

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