

Originating Committee: Environment & Ecology

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Intended Recipient: Missouri Division of Energy, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri General Assembly

Advocate for a Missouri Plan to Achieve Net-Zero Greenhouse-Gas Emissions

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has warned the carbon-dioxide (CO₂) levels should not exceed 450 ppm to prevent 2 degrees Celsius of warming, the temperature change by which experts estimate significant and deadly climate change will occur in the 21st Century; and

WHEREAS, atmospheric CO₂ levels peaked at 414.7 ppm at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Mauna Loa Atmospheric Baseline Observatory in 2019, the seventh consecutive year of global increases in concentrations of CO₂, that will continue to increase unless we take actions and support efforts to reduce fossil fuel emissions; and

WHEREAS, economists agree that phased-in carbon fees on fossil fuel emissions are the most efficient, transparent, and enforceable mechanism to drive an effective and fair market-based transition to greenhouse gas-free energy; and

WHEREAS, climate change is having real and dire impacts on communities across the nation, a carbon fee is supported by the National Wildlife Federation, Trout Unlimited, Nature Conservancy, Ocean Conservancy, and many other organizations; and

WHEREAS, there are ten pending carbon pricing bills in congress that will increase energy and fuel cost every year for every American household during the transition to a greenhouse gas-free economy; and

WHEREAS, an initial CO₂ pricing fee of \$15/ton on coal would essentially double the cost of the coal, and the cost would continue to increase each year under all of the carbon pricing bills; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, coal-fired power plants provided 73% of Missouri's net electricity generation in 2018, and more coal was consumed for generation in Missouri than in any other state except Texas; and

WHEREAS, natural gas use in the state's power sector has increased in recent years and reached a record high in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Missouri's one nuclear power plant contributed 13% of the state's net electricity generation, renewable sources contributed almost 6% of Missouri's net electricity generation, wind energy 4% and hydropower 2%, and small amounts of the state's net electricity generation come from biomass and from solar energy; and

WHEREAS, CFM Resolution 2017-2 supports the limitation of anthropogenic greenhouse-gas emissions and the resulting global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius to protect Missouri's citizens, wildlife and natural resources from catastrophic climate change; and

WHEREAS, without a comprehensive plan and concerted effort to accelerate transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources, Missouri will continue to pollute our environment, create economic hardship for families, and limit economic development; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, this 8th day of March, 2020, calls for a comprehensive plan to be developed by the Division of Energy in the Department of Natural Resources and with the Department of Economic Development and the Missouri General Assembly, for Missouri to accelerate transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy to achieve net-zero greenhouse-gas emissions by 2050. The plan should also create limits for greenhouse-gas emissions every five years, starting in 2025, and create a commission to review whether the state is on pace to meet its obligations.

Searchable Keywords: climate change, CO2, NOAA, carbon dioxide, greenhouse gas, natural gas, coal, climate plan, net-zero.

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