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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES.

Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal.

Whereas the October 2018 report entitled “Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C” by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the November 2018 Fourth National Climate Assessment report found that—

- (1) human activity is the dominant cause of observed climate change over the past century;
- (2) a changing climate is causing sea levels to rise and an increase in wildfires, severe storms, droughts, and other extreme weather events that threaten human life, healthy communities, and critical infrastructure;

(3) global warming at or above 2 degrees Celsius beyond preindustrialized levels will cause—

(A) mass migration from the regions most affected by climate change;

(B) more than \$500,000,000,000 in lost annual economic output in the United States by the year 2100;

(C) wildfires that, by 2050, will annually burn at least twice as much forest area in the western United States than was typically burned by wildfires in the years preceding 2019;

(D) a loss of more than 99 percent of all coral reefs on Earth;

(E) more than 350,000,000 more people to be exposed globally to deadly heat stress by 2050; and

(F) a risk of damage to \$1,000,000,000,000 of public infrastructure and coastal real estate in the United States; and

(4) global temperatures must be kept below 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrialized levels to avoid the most severe impacts of a changing climate, which will require—

(A) global reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from human sources of 40 to 60 percent from 2010 levels by 2030; and

(B) net-zero emissions by 2050;

Whereas, because the United States has historically been responsible for a disproportionate amount of greenhouse gas emissions, having emitted 20 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions through 2014, and has a high technological capacity, the United States must take a leading role in reducing emissions through economic transformation;

Whereas the United States is currently experiencing several related crises, with—

(1) life expectancy declining while basic needs, such as clean air, clean water, healthy food, and adequate health care, housing, transportation, and education, are inaccessible to a significant portion of the United States population;

(2) a 4-decade trend of economic stagnation, deindustrialization, and antilabor policies that has led to—

(A) hourly wages overall stagnating since the 1970s despite increased worker productivity;

(B) the third-worst level of socioeconomic mobility in the developed world before the Great Recession;

(C) the erosion of the earning and bargaining power of workers in the United States; and

(D) inadequate resources for public sector workers to confront the challenges of climate change at local, State, and Federal levels; and

(3) the greatest income inequality since the 1920s, with—

(A) the top 1 percent of earners accruing 91 percent of gains in the first few years of economic recovery after the Great Recession;

(B) a large racial wealth divide amounting to a difference of 20 times more wealth between the average White family and the average Black family; and

(C) a gender earnings gap that results in women earning approximately 80 percent as much as men, at the median;

Whereas climate change, pollution, and environmental destruction have exacerbated systemic racial, regional, so-

cial, environmental, and economic injustices (referred to in this preamble as “systemic injustices”) by disproportionately affecting indigenous communities, communities of color, migrant communities, deindustrialized communities, depopulated rural communities, the poor, low-income workers, women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with disabilities, and youth (referred to in this preamble as “frontline and vulnerable communities”);

Whereas, climate change constitutes a direct threat to the national security of the United States—

(1) by impacting the economic, environmental, and social stability of countries and communities around the world; and

(2) by acting as a threat multiplier;

Whereas the Federal Government-led mobilizations during World War II and the New Deal created the greatest middle class that the United States has ever seen, but many members of frontline and vulnerable communities were excluded from many of the economic and societal benefits of those mobilizations; and

Whereas the House of Representatives recognizes that a new national, social, industrial, and economic mobilization on a scale not seen since World War II and the New Deal is a historic opportunity—

(1) to create millions of good, high-wage jobs in the United States;

(2) to provide unprecedented levels of prosperity and economic security for all people of the United States; and

(3) to counteract systemic injustices: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 representatives that—

3 (1) it is the duty of the Federal Government to
4 create a Green New Deal—

5 (A) to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas
6 emissions through a fair and just transition for
7 all communities and workers;

8 (B) to create millions of good, high-wage
9 jobs and ensure prosperity and economic secu-
10 rity for all people of the United States;

11 (C) to invest in the infrastructure and in-
12 dustry of the United States to sustainably meet
13 the challenges of the 21st century;

14 (D) to secure for all people of the United
15 States for generations to come—

16 (i) clean air and water;

17 (ii) climate and community resiliency;

18 (iii) healthy food;

19 (iv) access to nature; and

20 (v) a sustainable environment; and

21 (E) to promote justice and equity by stop-
22 ping current, preventing future, and repairing
23 historic oppression of indigenous communities,
24 communities of color, migrant communities,
25 deindustrialized communities, depopulated rural

1 communities, the poor, low-income workers,
2 women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with
3 disabilities, and youth (referred to in this reso-
4 lution as “frontline and vulnerable commu-
5 nities”);

6 (2) the goals described in subparagraphs (A)
7 through (E) of paragraph (1) (referred to in this
8 resolution as the “Green New Deal goals”) should
9 be accomplished through a 10-year national mobili-
10 zation (referred to in this resolution as the “Green
11 New Deal mobilization”) that will require the fol-
12 lowing goals and projects—

13 (A) building resiliency against climate
14 change-related disasters, such as extreme
15 weather, including by leveraging funding and
16 providing investments for community-defined
17 projects and strategies;

18 (B) repairing and upgrading the infra-
19 structure in the United States, including—

20 (i) by eliminating pollution and green-
21 house gas emissions as much as techno-
22 logically feasible;

23 (ii) by guaranteeing universal access
24 to clean water;

1 (iii) by reducing the risks posed by
2 flooding and other climate impacts; and

3 (iv) by ensuring that any infrastruc-
4 ture bill considered by Congress addresses
5 climate change;

6 (C) meeting 100 percent of the power de-
7 mand in the United States through clean, re-
8 newable, and zero-emission energy sources, in-
9 cluding—

10 (i) by dramatically expanding and up-
11 grading existing renewable power sources;
12 and

13 (ii) by deploying new capacity;

14 (D) building or upgrading to energy-effi-
15 cient, distributed, and “smart” power grids,
16 and working to ensure affordable access to elec-
17 tricity;

18 (E) upgrading all existing buildings in the
19 United States and building new buildings to
20 achieve maximal energy efficiency, water effi-
21 ciency, safety, affordability, comfort, and dura-
22 bility, including through electrification;

23 (F) spurring massive growth in clean man-
24 ufacturing in the United States and removing
25 pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from

1 manufacturing and industry as much as is tech-
2 nologically feasible, including by expanding re-
3 newable energy manufacturing and investing in
4 existing manufacturing and industry;

5 (G) working collaboratively with farmers
6 and ranchers in the United States to eliminate
7 pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from
8 the agricultural sector as much as is techno-
9 logically feasible, including—

10 (i) by supporting family farming;

11 (ii) by investing in sustainable farm-
12 ing and land use practices that increase
13 soil health; and

14 (iii) by building a more sustainable
15 food system that ensures universal access
16 to healthy food;

17 (H) overhauling transportation systems in
18 the United States to eliminate pollution and
19 greenhouse gas emissions from the transpor-
20 tation sector as much as is technologically fea-
21 sible, including through investment in—

22 (i) zero-emission vehicle infrastructure
23 and manufacturing;

24 (ii) clean, affordable, and accessible
25 public transportation; and

1 (iii) high-speed rail;

2 (I) mitigating and managing the long-term
3 adverse health, economic, and other effects of
4 pollution and climate change, including by pro-
5 viding funding for community-defined projects
6 and strategies;

7 (J) removing greenhouse gases from the
8 atmosphere and reducing pollution, including by
9 restoring natural ecosystems through proven
10 low-tech solutions that increase soil carbon stor-
11 age, such as preservation and afforestation;

12 (K) restoring and protecting threatened,
13 endangered, and fragile ecosystems through lo-
14 cally appropriate and science-based projects
15 that enhance biodiversity and support climate
16 resiliency;

17 (L) cleaning up existing hazardous waste
18 and abandoned sites to promote economic devel-
19 opment and sustainability;

20 (M) identifying other emission and pollu-
21 tion sources and creating solutions to eliminate
22 them; and

23 (N) promoting the international exchange
24 of technology, expertise, products, funding, and
25 services, with the aim of making the United

1 States the international leader on climate ac-
2 tion, and to help other countries achieve a
3 Green New Deal;

4 (3) a Green New Deal must be developed
5 through transparent and inclusive consultation, col-
6 laboration, and partnership with frontline and vul-
7 nerable communities, labor unions, worker coopera-
8 tives, civil society groups, academia, and businesses;
9 and

10 (4) to achieve the Green New Deal goals and
11 mobilization, a Green New Deal will require the fol-
12 lowing goals and projects—

13 (A) providing and leveraging, in a way that
14 ensures that the public receives appropriate
15 ownership stakes and returns on investment,
16 adequate capital (including through community
17 grants, public banks, and other public financ-
18 ing), technical expertise, supporting policies,
19 and other forms of assistance to communities,
20 organizations, Federal, State, and local govern-
21 ment agencies, and businesses working on the
22 Green New Deal mobilization;

23 (B) ensuring that the Federal Government
24 takes into account the complete environmental

1 and social costs and impacts of emissions
2 through—

3 (i) existing laws;

4 (ii) new policies and programs; and

5 (iii) ensuring that frontline and vul-
6 nerable communities shall not be adversely
7 affected;

8 (C) providing resources, training, and
9 high-quality education, including higher edu-
10 cation, to all people of the United States, with
11 a focus on frontline and vulnerable commu-
12 nities, so those communities may be full and
13 equal participants in the Green New Deal mobi-
14 lization;

15 (D) making public investments in the re-
16 search and development of new clean and re-
17 newable energy technologies and industries;

18 (E) directing investments to spur economic
19 development, deepen and diversify industry in
20 local and regional economies, and build wealth
21 and community ownership, while prioritizing
22 high-quality job creation and economic, social,
23 and environmental benefits in frontline and vul-
24 nerable communities that may otherwise strug-

1 gle with the transition away from greenhouse
2 gas intensive industries;

3 (F) ensuring the use of democratic and
4 participatory processes that are inclusive of and
5 led by frontline and vulnerable communities and
6 workers to plan, implement, and administer the
7 Green New Deal mobilization at the local level;

8 (G) ensuring that the Green New Deal mo-
9 bilization creates high-quality union jobs that
10 pay prevailing wages, hires local workers, offers
11 training and advancement opportunities, and
12 guarantees wage and benefit parity for workers
13 affected by the transition;

14 (H) guaranteeing a job with a family-sus-
15 taining wage, adequate family and medical
16 leave, paid vacations, and retirement security to
17 all people of the United States;

18 (I) strengthening and protecting the right
19 of all workers to organize, unionize, and collec-
20 tively bargain free of coercion, intimidation, and
21 harassment;

22 (J) strengthening and enforcing labor,
23 workplace health and safety, antidiscrimination,
24 and wage and hour standards across all employ-
25 ers, industries, and sectors;

1 (K) enacting and enforcing trade rules,
2 procurement standards, and border adjustments
3 with strong labor and environmental protec-
4 tions—

5 (i) to stop the transfer of jobs and
6 pollution overseas; and

7 (ii) to grow domestic manufacturing
8 in the United States;

9 (L) ensuring that public lands, waters, and
10 oceans are protected and that eminent domain
11 is not abused;

12 (M) obtaining the free, prior, and informed
13 consent of indigenous people for all decisions
14 that affect indigenous people and their tradi-
15 tional territories, honoring all treaties and
16 agreements with indigenous people, and pro-
17 tecting and enforcing the sovereignty and land
18 rights of indigenous people;

19 (N) ensuring a commercial environment
20 where every businessperson is free from unfair
21 competition and domination by domestic or
22 international monopolies; and

23 (O) providing all people of the United
24 States with—

25 (i) high-quality health care;

- 1 (ii) affordable, safe, and adequate
- 2 housing;
- 3 (iii) economic security; and
- 4 (iv) access to clean water, clean air,
- 5 healthy and affordable food, and nature.