

TOWN OF BEDFORD

FOUNDED 1680

Westchester County, New York

Resolution Calling for Federal Climate Change Legislation

WHEREAS, an October 2018 United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report says we have only until 2030, to limit devastating global warming and avoid a climate change catastrophe;

WHEREAS, the October 2018 IPCC report also makes clear that every bit of warming matters, so every fraction of a degree less of warming will save lives and pay dividends across the world's economies;

WHEREAS, the world is already experiencing serious, costly, and increasing impacts from climate change, including more intense storms, unprecedented flooding and persistent wildfires;

WHEREAS, an inadequate response to climate change will increase economic and environmental disruptions. These include, but are not limited to: severe storms, longer and hotter heat waves, worsening flood and drought cycles, growing invasive species and insect problems, accelerated species extinction rates, rising sea levels, increased wildfires, and a dramatic increase in refugees from climate impacted lands.

WHEREAS, the damage of climate change generally falls disparately amongst the population, tending to hit hardest and first those already experiencing environmental degradation and least equipped to adapt to the impacts, often including indigent and marginalized communities.

WHEREAS, doing what is now necessary to adequately address the climate crisis requires a national mobilization of a scope and scale that is a historic opportunity to create millions of jobs and address social and economic inequities;

WHEREAS, federal climate change legislation would create a detailed mobilization plan to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions;

WHEREAS, local governments calling for the federal government to pass federal climate change legislation will demonstrate widespread popular support for necessary and just climate action;

WHEREAS federal legislation devoted to urgent climate justice action will stimulate economic development, produce a strong workforce, increase access to clean air and water, restore natural habitats, and reduce pollution;

WHEREAS federal legislation of this scope and caliber will advance Town of Bedford initiatives to more fully realize its conservation and climate action goals.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Bedford Town Board calls on the federal government to pass federal climate change legislation that meets the following goals:

- Dramatically expand existing renewable power sources and deploy new production capacity with the goal of meeting 100% of national power demand through renewable sources;
- Reach a target of net-zero carbon emissions;

- In recognition of a substantial transformation in the economy as described, strive to provide all members of the workforce the opportunities to succeed in such transformation;
- Strive to provide for those in the workforce and those communities disparately impacted by climate change, pollution and other environmental damage.