

# Albany Teachers Association

## Climate Action Resolution

*A resolution of Albany Teachers Association calling for Congressional action on climate change*

WHEREAS, there is agreement among scientists that human activities which create greenhouse gas emissions are the main cause of climate change; and,

WHEREAS, the global impact, the urgency, and the magnitude of climate change calls for leadership and action in all sectors of society, all institutions, and all elected leaders; and,

WHEREAS, we believe that climate change is not a partisan issue and that local, state, and national decisions should be guided by the best available science; and,

WHEREAS, young people are unfairly impacted by national climate inaction because greenhouse gases will continue to build up over the coming decades and will create a burden throughout our lives, as well as the lives of future generations; and,

WHEREAS, in 2015 the California PTA declared that climate change was a “children’s issue”;

WHEREAS, a diverse group of Albany stakeholders including the AUSD Board of Education, the AHS student government, and the Ocean View Elementary PTSA, have all passed resolutions calling on Congress to pass federal climate policy;

### **NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT. . .**

1. We declare climate change a generational justice, human rights, social justice, and equity issue.

2. We call on Congress to swiftly end decades of climate neglect by passing commonsense national climate policies, such as carbon-pricing, a 100% clean energy transition plan, and/or green infrastructure investments; and recognizing that a plan known as the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act has already been introduced in the United States House of Representatives (H.R. 763), and if passed this bill would allow the United States to meet its obligations under the 2015 Paris Climate Treaty.

3. We thank the school boards, student councils, teachers' unions, PTAs, and education sector associations who have already spoken up for climate justice by passing their own climate action resolutions. We encourage the remaining 13,000+ school boards in the country, and other stakeholders to pass climate action resolutions similar to ours, calling on Congress to enact climate policies to protect current and future students.

**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**

1. We ask the ATA secretary to transmit official copies of this resolution to all other teachers' unions in Alameda County, the California Teachers Association, and the National Education Association.

Votes: Ayes:\_\_\_\_\_ Noes:\_\_\_\_\_ Abstain:\_\_\_\_\_

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_ President  
\_\_\_\_\_ Vice-President  
\_\_\_\_\_ Secretary

- **How do we make our resolution official?**

To make it official here's what we need:

A. Make sure your student council spends some time discussing the resolution and chooses language that makes sense to you and fits with your beliefs and values. Many student councils will be fine with most of the language in here and will only change a few words and phrases.

Some may wish to change more. The most important things to keep in are:

I. "Climate change is a generational justice, human rights, and equity issue"

II. "Congress should act quickly and boldly on climate change to protect current and future students."

III. Communication clause (see example resolution)

You can edit the model resolution here:

 [Simplified Middle School Student Council Resolu...](#)

B. Once you agree on specific language vote on it. Record the number of Ayes/Noes/Abstentions.

C. Print a copy. Make sure it says "Resolution of the \_\_\_\_\_ Student Council calling for Congressional Action on Climate Change" If you have school letterhead, please print it on school letterhead. This makes it look more official, but it's not required to have school letterhead. The signatures also make it official.

C. Record the votes (Ayes/Noes/Abstentions) and have the SGA/Student Council officers sign it (**but they should only use their first names or just their initials---no last names please**). Also, date it and have your student club faculty advisor also sign it with his/her full name.

D. You might also take some photos of the student council in front of the resolution (serious pose and don't forget the powerful-advocate-flexing-fun-pose). These pics can make for great outreach later on, but be sure to get school/parent permission before sharing pics of students. You might even take some short video snippets of students talking about why they passed the resolution. This could be turned into outreach materials later on.

D. Take a close up picture of the resolution and email it to me [empower@schoolsforclimateaction.org](mailto:empower@schoolsforclimateaction.org) . Please cc the faculty student council advisor on the email as well. In addition, please email me a word doc as well.

Then it'll be official.