

Lee Vining High School ASB Resolution calling Congress to act on climate

WHEREAS, there is consensus among scientists that human activities which create greenhouse gas emissions are the dominant 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 policies should be guided by the best available science; and,

WHEREAS, young people are disproportionately impacted by national climate inaction because greenhouse gases will continue to accumulate over the coming decades and will create a profound 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, more than 28 school boards in 5 states have passed non-partisan resolutions building political will for national climate action to protect students;

WHEREAS, the Lee Vining ASB (student council) recognizes and understands the significant negative impact that rapid and ongoing climate change has on America’s schools, students, and their communities;

WHEREAS, the Carbon Fee and Dividend plan endorsed by Citizens’ Climate Lobby (CCL) is endorsed by experts as the best market-based solution to climate change;

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT. . .

1. We declare climate change a generational justice and human rights issue;
2. We call on Congress to swiftly end 30 years of climate neglect by enacting commonsense national climate policies, such as carbon-pricing, to restore the climate for the good of young people and future generations;
3. We support CCL’s Carbon Fee and Dividend plan for reducing carbon emissions;
4. We thank the school boards who have spoken up for climate justice by passing their own climate action resolutions. We encourage the remaining 13,000+ school boards in the country, including the California State Board of Education to break silence about climate justice and speak up to protect our generation and future generations.
5. We encourage all student councils, teachers’ unions, PTA’s, and education support organizations (such as the state and National School Boards Associations, the state and national school administrators’ association, and the state and national school

psychologists association) 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 will bring a similar resolution to the ESUSD school board asking them to endorse climate action;
2. We will work towards increasing sustainability at our school and supporting initiatives such as recycling, installing LED lights in the gym;
3. We will investigate the school's energy costs and find the areas where more efficient technology would be most cost-effective;
4. We will organize transportation and logistics to attend 350 Mono and other climate events such as the March for Science;

Votes: Ayes: 14 Noes: 0 Abstain: _____

Signed:

_____ President

_____ Vice-President

_____ Secretary

_____ Witnessed by Student Council Advisor

On _____

Rationale

Research demonstrates that climate change adversely affects students' physical and mental health and negatively impacts student achievement.

The damages caused by natural catastrophes and extreme weather events devastate local economies and therefore schools.

In 2017, the Government Accounting Agency reported that the impact of climate change to the United States was approximately \$350 billion for the preceding 10 years, and is projected to cost at least \$35 billion annually from now until 2050 when it will increase to as much as \$112 billion annually by the end of the century.

A report by the Universal Ecological Fund places the annual cost at \$240 billion. These figures did not include the devastating California wildfires of 2017/2018, the destruction caused by Hurricane Harvey in South Texas, loss of Alaskan permafrost and coastal land mass, significant droughts in the western United States, increases in insect population growth leading to destruction of crops, and projected loss of low lying land in Florida, Virginia, Texas, California, and Louisiana.

Research by the World Meteorological Organization concluded that 80 percent of natural disasters between 2005 and 2015 were in some way climate related.

The insurance industry has recognized the impact of climate change. In 2010 the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) adopted an Insurer Climate Risk Disclosure Survey in response to The Potential Impact of Climate Change on Insurance Regulation white paper released by the NAIC in 2008. “The disclosure of climate risk is important because of the potential impact climate change can have on insurer solvency and the availability and affordability of insurance across all major categories.”

In addition to the projected costs due to major flooding affecting coastal schools, there will be increased electricity demands due to heat and air quality for inland schools requiring increasing amounts of air conditioning and possible indoor gyms for physical education and athletics.

The specific costs to school infrastructure including the loss of buildings and lands as well as declines in tax revenue and increases in insurance rates has not been determined, however it is expected to be billions of dollars. It is vital that climate change be slowed so that school districts and their communities can spend precious dollars in classrooms to support the students of today and for future generations.