

Tahoe Expedition Academy School Board Climate Action Resolution Calling on 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, climate change is a social justice and equity issue. While climate change impacts *all* people and disproportionately impacts *all* young people and future generations, it disproportionately affects people of color and low-income communities, thereby exacerbating existing inequities and limiting equality of opportunity which is a foundational aspiration for modern America;

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

WHEREAS, we support the 21 youth plaintiffs who are currently asserting a constitutional right for a livable climate in the *Juliana v. U.S.*; and

WHEREAS, since December of 2017 more than 60 school boards and 30 student councils in 15 states have passed non-partisan resolutions building political will for national climate action to protect students;

WHEREAS, the Tahoe Expedition Academy School Board recognizes and understands the significant negative impact that rapid and ongoing climate change has on America’s schools, students, and their communities.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT we declare climate change a generational justice, human rights, and equity issue;

BE RESOLVED THAT we call on Congress to swiftly end 30+ years of climate neglect by enacting commonsense national climate policies, such as:

- Revenue-neutral carbon-fee-and-dividend

- 100% clean energy transition plans that include safety nets and training for transitioning workers
- Green infrastructure and technology investments that meet the urgency, scope, and scale outlined in the IPCC's Special Report, "Global Warming of 1.5 Degrees Celsius,"
- Investments in forestry and regenerative agriculture to drawdown CO2 from the atmosphere and sequester in soils and biomass

BE RESOLVED THAT 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 their silence about climate justice and speak up to protect our generation and future generations. We encourage the Placer County board to follow our lead and clearly articulate their will for Congress to act boldly on climate change.

BE RESOLVED THAT we encourage all environmental clubs, student councils, teachers' unions, PTA's, and education support organizations (especially state and National School Boards Associations, state and national school administrators' associations, and 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. Silence about climate justice from education sector organizations undermines our institutional coherence.

BE RESOLVED THAT the School Board of Tahoe Expedition Academy celebrates existing school sustainability initiatives such as:

- Winning 4th Place in the Annual Shane McConkey Foundation Eco Challenge in 2019
- Sending students to two international conferences; The POP International Conference and Festival in 2019 and the World Sustainable Development Forum in 2020
- Organizing for the whole school to attend a Schools For Climate Action March at UNR in 2019
- Awarded a \$10K grant from Raley's O-N-E Market in June 2020 to build a mobile-greenhouse to teach youth about sustainable and healthy eating
- Hosting a virtual Wilder Than Wild film showing in fall 2020 to teach students about the increase in wildfires and how climate change has been contributing to this increase

BE RESOLVED THAT the School Board of Tahoe Expedition Academy wishes to make further progress towards sustainability and mitigating climate change.

AND BE RESOLVED THAT we direct our environmental club members to transmit official copies of this resolution to our school administration, the Schools for Climate Action campaign, our county, and state school boards, our teacher's union and TAP, the State School Boards Association, all California members of Congress, and the Congressional Climate Solutions Caucus.


Votes: Ayes: ✓ Noes: Abstain:

Signed:

Tori Long Tori Long, Board Chair

Li Lisa Toutant, Board Vice Chair

Alice Hahn Alice Hahn, Board Treasurer

 Robert Suarez, Board Member

On
September 03, 2020

Signature: 
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