SONOMA ACADEMY CLIMATE CHANGE RESOLUTION, 2019

WHEREAS, there is a broad scientific consensus among climate scientists that human activities which create greenhouse gas emissions, are the dominant cause of climate change; and,

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

WHEREAS, we believe it is important to advocate for climate action leading to climate restoration to curtail one of the greatest threats facing communities throughout the world; 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, children represent a particularly vulnerable group because greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere will continue to accumulate over the coming decades and will profoundly impact our current students throughout their lives, as well as the lives of future generations; and,

WHEREAS, the Sonoma Academy Student Leadership Council recognizes climate change as a generational justice and human rights issue; 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 people in poverty, thereby exacerbating existing inequities and limiting equality of opportunity which is a foundational aspiration for modern America;

WHEREAS, 21 youth claimants are currently asserting a constitutional right for a livable climate in the *Juliana v. U.S.* case currently in federal courts and dozens of other youth claimants are making similar claims in state courts around the country; and

WHEREAS, national and state elected leaders working in a bipartisan fashion to enact carbon pricing policies could substantially reduce human-made greenhouse gas emissions, thereby protecting our current and future students; and,

WHEREAS in our pursuit of a sustainable future, Sonoma Academy seeks constant improvement by the sharing of knowledge, linking long-term sustainable considerations with ethical responsibility, and reestablishing the integral relationship between natural processes and human activity.

WHEREAS we have committed to school-wide sustainability practices and principles.

WHEREAS, the Sonoma Academy Student Leadership Council recognizes and understands the significant negative impact that rapid and ongoing climate change has on America's schools, students, and their communities.

LET IT THEREFORE BE RESOLVED THAT,

1. The Sonoma Academy Student Leadership Council (SLC) declares climate change a generational justice and human rights issue.
2. We call upon our own governance, the Sonoma Academy Board of Trustees, to adopt a similar climate resolution responding to the urgency of climate change.
3. Sonoma Academy Student Leadership Council calls on Congress to swiftly end 30 years of climate neglect by enacting national policies to restore the climate for the good of young people and of future generations.
4. We thank the student councils who have spoken up for climate justice by passing their own climate action resolutions. Sonoma Academy Leadership Council calls on the independent school student community to pass similar resolutions.
5. We encourage the National Association of Independent Schools and California Association of Independent schools to adopt similar climate change resolutions, calling on Congress to enact climate policies to protect current and future students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sonoma Academy Student Leadership Council calls on Congress to take swift and effective action on climate change. Possible actions to protect current and future students include: enacting a revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend, 100% clean energy transition plans, green infrastructure and technology investments, and investments in forestry and regenerative agriculture to drawdown CO2 from the atmosphere and sequester in soils and biomass.

Signed: