

Senate Joint Resolution No. 20

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 146

Senate Joint Resolution No. 20—Relative to global warming.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 26, 2001.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 20, Perata. Global warming.

This measure would memorialize the President of the United States to take proactive steps to curb greenhouse emissions and urge the President to sign the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

WHEREAS, Average temperatures on earth have climbed more than one degree Fahrenheit over the past century, while average temperatures have increased only 5 to 9 degrees since the last ice age 10,000 years ago; and

WHEREAS, There is overwhelming scientific evidence that pollution released into the atmosphere as a result of human activities significantly contributes to this phenomenon of global warming; and

WHEREAS, If we continue current rates of pollution and releases of greenhouse gases, scientists predict that the average temperature of the earth will increase as much as 11 degrees this century; and

WHEREAS, Scientific evidence links global warming to increased flooding, storms, droughts, and heat waves, which all have devastating effects on the environment, agriculture, wildlife, and public health; and

WHEREAS, Experts estimate that the current climate crisis requires a 70-percent reduction of greenhouse gases to avoid catastrophic effects on human existence; and

WHEREAS, Although the United States comprises only 4 percent of the world's population, it produces 25 percent of all greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, The Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change sought to address climate change by setting binding targets for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by developed countries; and

WHEREAS, An effective emissions control program would not necessarily cause a significant negative impact on our nation's economy due to recommended technology and devices that would also reduce the nation's dependency on fossil fuels; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature hereby declares its support for the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and strongly urges the President of the United States to take proactive steps to curb greenhouse emissions and work with other nations to address the increasing dangers of global warming; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

