

Introduced by Senator De León

June 29, 2015

Senate Resolution No. 37—Relative to public resources.

1 WHEREAS, Pope Francis is a global defender of the poor and
2 all victims of injustice, including those suffering the devastating
3 impacts of climate change; and
4 WHEREAS, Pope Francis, the leader of 1.2 billion Catholics
5 worldwide, released a Papal encyclical on June 18, 2015, in which
6 he issues a clarion call to action on climate change; and
7 WHEREAS, A Papal encyclical is a “letter” to bishops and
8 considered the highest teaching of a pope; and
9 WHEREAS, Pope Francis in his Papal encyclical recognizes
10 that reversing global warming, halting the depletion of our
11 resources, and combating environmental degradation falls upon
12 us all: government, the private sector, and individuals; and
13 WHEREAS, Pope Francis declares that the climate “is a
14 common good, belonging to us all”; and
15 WHEREAS, Pope Francis states that a solid scientific consensus
16 indicates a disturbing warming of the climate, accompanied by
17 rising sea levels and extreme weather events, even if a scientifically
18 determined cause cannot be attributed to each phenomenon; and
19 WHEREAS, Pope Francis states that the problem is aggravated
20 by a model of development based on the intensive use of fossil
21 fuels, which is at the heart of the worldwide energy system; and
22 WHEREAS, Pope Francis sees an urgent need to develop
23 policies so that in the near future the emission of carbon dioxide
24 and other highly polluting gases can be drastically reduced by
25 finding alternatives to fossil fuels and developing sources of
26 renewable energy; and

1 WHEREAS, Pope Francis warns that the exploitation of the
2 planet has already exceeded acceptable limits while the problem
3 of poverty remains unsolved, and that “doomsday predictions can
4 no longer be met with irony or disdain”; and

5 WHEREAS, Pope Francis states everyday experience and
6 scientific research show that the gravest effects of all attacks on
7 the environment are suffered by the poorest; and

8 WHEREAS, Pope Francis states that a true ecological approach
9 must integrate questions of social and environmental justice in
10 debates on the environment, “so as to hear both the cry of the Earth
11 and the cry of the poor”; and

12 WHEREAS, California has already begun to incorporate
13 questions of social and environmental justice in its approach to
14 climate control, focusing resources to combat environmental
15 degradation in California’s poorest communities; and

16 WHEREAS, The California Legislature recognizes the alarming
17 rate of global warming caused by fossil fuels and the urgent need
18 to continue to work toward a low-carbon economy, while fighting
19 environmental degradation in our poorest communities and
20 increasing their access to cleaner energy; and

21 WHEREAS, California is home to more Catholics than any
22 other state in the nation with nearly one in three residents who
23 self-identify as Christians being Catholic; and

24 WHEREAS, the Papal encyclical is anticipated to be not only
25 of great importance in parishes throughout California, the nation,
26 and world, but it is also expected to have significant political
27 ramifications; now, therefore, be it

28 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That members
29 of the Legislature review and take into account the Papal encyclical
30 on climate change in relevant legislative actions; and be it further

31 *Resolved*, That the Governor and executive branch of state
32 government consider the implications of the Papal encyclical and
33 climate change in their policy and fiscal actions to prevent further
34 environmental degradation; and be it further

35 *Resolved*, That appropriate policy committees of the Legislature
36 convene hearings to consider the policy implications of the Papal
37 encyclical and seek testimony from religious leaders, state officials,
38 environmental organizations, business groups, and the general
39 public; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the United States Congress and President Obama
2 consider the implications of the Papal encyclical and climate
3 change in their policy and fiscal actions to prevent further
4 environmental degradation; and be it further

5 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
6 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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