

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~~; *change and*
7 *caring for the earth as our common home*; and

8 WHEREAS, A Papal encyclical is a ~~“letter” to bishops and~~
9 considered the highest *level of teaching of a pope*; *pope on faith*
10 *and morals*; and

11 WHEREAS, Pope Francis in his Papal encyclical recognizes
12 that reversing global warming, halting the depletion of our
13 resources, and combating environmental degradation falls upon
14 us all: government, the private sector, and individuals; and

15 WHEREAS, Pope Francis declares that the climate “is a
16 common good, belonging to us all”; and

17 WHEREAS, Pope Francis states that a solid scientific consensus
18 indicates a disturbing warming of the climate, accompanied by
19 rising sea levels and extreme weather events, even if a scientifically
20 determined cause cannot be attributed to each phenomenon; and

21 WHEREAS, Pope Francis states that the problem is aggravated
22 by a model of development based on *the dominion of the planet*
23 *and the intensive use of fossil fuels, which is at the heart of the*
24 *worldwide fuels while failing to accept moral responsibility for*

1 *the degrading global consequences of an unsustainable energy*
2 *system; and*

3 WHEREAS, Pope Francis sees an urgent need *for a robust*
4 *dialogue that includes the voices of all, especially those most*
5 *marginalized*, to develop policies so that in the near future the
6 emission of carbon dioxide and other highly polluting gases can
7 be drastically reduced by finding alternatives to fossil fuels and
8 developing sources of renewable energy; and

9 ~~WHEREAS, Pope Francis warns that the exploitation of the~~
10 ~~planet has already exceeded acceptable limits while the problem~~
11 ~~of poverty remains unsolved, and that “doomsday predictions can~~
12 ~~no longer be met with irony or disdain”;~~ and

13 WHEREAS, Pope Francis states, “*We are faced not with two*
14 *separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather*
15 *with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental.*
16 *Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to*
17 *combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the*
18 *same time protecting nature”;* and

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

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

26 WHEREAS, California has already begun to incorporate
27 questions of social and environmental justice in its approach to
28 climate control, focusing resources to combat environmental
29 degradation in California’s poorest communities; and

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

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

38 WHEREAS, the Papal encyclical is anticipated to be not only
39 of great importance in parishes throughout California, the nation,

1 and world, but it is also expected to have significant political
2 ramifications; now, therefore, be it

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

6 *Resolved*, That the Governor and executive branch of state
7 government consider the implications of the Papal encyclical and
8 climate change in their policy and fiscal actions to prevent further
9 environmental degradation; and be it further

10 *Resolved*, That appropriate policy committees of the Legislature
11 convene hearings to consider the policy implications of the Papal
12 encyclical and seek testimony from religious leaders, state officials,
13 environmental organizations, business groups, and the general
14 public; and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That the United States Congress and President Obama
16 consider the implications of the Papal encyclical and climate
17 change in their policy and fiscal actions to prevent further
18 environmental degradation; and be it further

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