

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 25, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 14, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 26

Introduced by Assembly Member Chesbro

(Coauthor: ~~Assembly Member Huffman~~ *Members Huffman, Ammiano, Bass, Block, Blumenfield, Bradford, Brownley, Buchanan, Coto, De La Torre, Eng, Evans, Feuer, Fong, Fuentes, Hayashi, Hernandez, Hill, Huber, Jones, Lieu, Mendoza, Monning, Nava, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Ruskin, Salas, Saldaña, Skinner, Solorio, Audra Strickland, Swanson, Torlakson, Torres, Torrico, and Yamada*)

(Coauthor: Senator Pavley)

September 9, 2009

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 26—Relative to climate change.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 26, as amended, Chesbro. Climate change.

This measure would request the Congress of the United States to establish a comprehensive framework, including dedicated funding, for adapting our nation's wildlife, habitats, coasts, watersheds, rivers, and other natural resources and ecosystems to the impacts of climate change.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, On June 26, 2009, the United States House of
- 2 Representatives passed the American Clean Energy and Security
- 3 Act of 2009 (H.R. 2454) that includes a comprehensive natural
- 4 resource adaptation program and allocates dedicated funds to states

1 that adopt a natural resource adaption plan to address the impacts
2 of climate change on natural resources within the state's
3 jurisdiction; and

4 WHEREAS, Climate change presents the most pressing threat
5 to California's natural resources in the 21st century; and

6 WHEREAS, California's natural resources provide for and
7 protect the health of our human populations by providing necessary
8 food and water, flood and erosion barriers, disease control,
9 atmospheric carbon removal and storage, and many useful products
10 from our oceans, forests, grasslands, and agricultural landscapes;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, California's economy is linked to the health and
13 vitality of our natural resources, which support the state's valuable
14 agricultural, outdoor recreation, tourism, and other industries; and

15 WHEREAS, Recognizing the need to quickly and significantly
16 address climate change, the California Legislature passed, and the
17 Governor signed, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006,
18 which requires robust greenhouse gas emission reductions; and

19 WHEREAS, Despite the success of efforts to reduce greenhouse
20 gas emissions, previous and current emissions have created
21 unavoidable climate change impacts that threaten our natural
22 resources, human communities, and economy; and

23 WHEREAS, California is experiencing these climate change
24 impacts, including documented temperature increases, earlier snow
25 melt, increased wildfire occurrence, sea level rise, rainfall changes,
26 severe weather, and migration of plant and animal species; and

27 WHEREAS, Projected future climate change impacts to
28 California's natural resources and human health over the next
29 century are dramatic and include increased climate-related human
30 mortality, destruction of manmade infrastructure, high intensity
31 wildfires, increased flooding, increased drought, reduced snowpack,
32 decreased water supply and quality, altered timing of essential
33 ecosystem functions, food supply disruption, increased sea level
34 rise, and increased extinction of fish, wildlife, and plants; and

35 WHEREAS, Climate change impact adaptation planning and
36 program implementation is essential to guard against these
37 catastrophic natural, human, and economic impacts; and

38 WHEREAS, California recognizes the need for cost-effective,
39 comprehensive action to guard against climate change impacts to
40 our state's natural resources, human population, and economy and,

1 in coordination with efforts targeting greenhouse gas mitigation
2 policies, is developing a statewide climate adaptation strategy to
3 help the state prepare for these climate change impacts; and

4 WHEREAS, Natural resources climate change adaptation
5 projects, including invasive species removal, wetlands restoration,
6 riparian and other habitat restoration, removal of unused logging
7 roads, and wildfire protection, are labor intensive and will create
8 new jobs; and

9 WHEREAS, A comprehensive federal framework and dedicated
10 funding for climate change adaptation is of special interest to the
11 state because of the particular threats climate change poses to
12 California's natural resources, people, and economy; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
15 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California
16 respectfully requests that the Congress of the United States
17 establish a comprehensive framework, including dedicated funding,
18 for adapting our nation's wildlife, habitats, coasts, watersheds,
19 rivers, and other natural resources and ecosystems to the impacts
20 of climate change; and be it further

21 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
22 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
23 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to each
24 Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the
25 United States, to the Secretary of the Interior, to the Secretary of
26 Agriculture, to the Secretary of Commerce, and to the
27 Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
28 Administration.