

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

*No. 271*

**Approved May 10, 2019**

WHEREAS, Based on the findings from the October 2018 report entitled “Special Report on Global Warming” by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the November 2018 Fourth National Climate Assessment report; and

WHEREAS, The United States has historically been responsible for a disproportionate amount of greenhouse gas emissions, having emitted 20 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions through 2014, and has a high technological capacity, the United States must take a leading role in reducing emissions through economic transformation; and

WHEREAS, Climate change, pollution, and environmental destruction have exacerbated systemic racial, regional, social, environmental, and economic injustices by disproportionately affecting indigenous peoples, communities of color, migrant communities, deindustrialized communities, depopulated rural communities, the poor, low-income workers, women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with disabilities, and youth; and

WHEREAS, Climate change constitutes a direct threat to the national security of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Government-led mobilizations during World War II and the New Deal created the greatest middle class that the United States has ever seen, but many members of frontline and vulnerable communities were excluded from many of the economic and societal benefits of those mobilizations; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. House of Representatives recognizes that a new national, social, industrial, and economic mobilization on a scale not seen since World War II and the New Deal era is a historic opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island’s House of Representatives’ Resolution H5665 and Senate Resolution S0659 requests an assessment of the benefits to the state of enactment of a green new deal, including, but not limited to, findings and recommendations for state legislation based on green new deal principles; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island, since the end of World War II, has typically preceded other New England states into economic recessions and followed them out of recessions, with the Great Recession of 2008 being a notable instance of this phenomenon; and

WHEREAS, The economic well-being of the people of Rhode Island has been impaired by this state's historic susceptibility to longer recessions and slower economic growth than adjoining states; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island previously had a strong industrial economy with home-grown national and world-leading manufacturers and has, since the end of World War II, suffered through periods of economic stagnation that have adversely affected the broad base of its population; and

WHEREAS, There is strong scientific and international consensus that the level of greenhouse emissions must be substantially reduced, and Rhode Island is a participant in this consensus through the enactment by this General Assembly of the Resilient Rhode Island Act of 2014 and through executive order 17-06 by Governor Gina Raimondo embracing the Paris Agreement; and

WHEREAS, The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan issued by the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council in December 2016 in accordance with the requirements of the Resilient Rhode Island Act of 2014, chapter 6.2 of title 42 of the general laws, states unequivocally that a "business as usual" scenario cannot continue if Rhode Island is to meet its statutory emission reduction targets for 2035 and 2050; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island has proven its ability to be a top-ranked state in terms of clean energy and energy efficiency and must aim to transform and strengthen its economy to provide and maintain a good quality of life to the people of the state; and

WHEREAS, As the elected representatives of the people of Providence, the City Council has an obligation to ensure the environmental and economic safety of its citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Providence City Council does hereby support the Green New Deal set forth through resolution by the United States and the Providence delegation to the State House.

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAY 02 2019

READ AND PASSED

Sabrina Mats  
PRES.

Man Bell  
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

[Signature]  
Mayor

Date: 5/16/19

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

HOUSE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING AN ASSESSMENT OF THE BENEFITS TO RHODE ISLAND OF ENACTMENT OF A GREEN NEW DEAL, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE LEGISLATION BASED ON GREEN NEW DEAL PRINCIPLES.

Introduced By: Representatives Blazejewski, Carson, Vella-Wilkinson, Williams, and McKiernan

Date Introduced: February 27, 2019

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Island, since the end of World War II, has typically preceded other  
2 New England states into economic recessions and followed them out of recessions, with the Great  
3 Recession of 2008 being a notable instance of this phenomenon; and

4 WHEREAS, The economic well-being of the people of Rhode Island has been impaired  
5 by this state's historic susceptibility to longer recessions and slower economic growth than  
6 adjoining states; and

7 WHEREAS, Rhode Island previously had a strong industrial economy with home-grown  
8 national and world-leading manufacturers and has, since the end of World War II, suffered  
9 through periods of economic stagnation that have adversely affected the broad base of its  
10 population; and

11 WHEREAS, There is strong scientific and international consensus that the level of  
12 greenhouse emissions must be substantially reduced, and Rhode Island is a participant in this  
13 consensus through the enactment by this General Assembly of the Resilient Rhode Island Act of  
14 2014 and through executive order 17-06 by Governor Gina Raimondo embracing the Paris  
15 Agreement; and

16 WHEREAS, The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan issued by the Executive  
17 Climate Change Coordinating Council in December 2016 in accordance with the requirements of  
18 the Resilient Rhode Island Act of 2014, chapter 6.2 of title 42 of the general laws, states

1 unequivocally that a “business as usual” scenario cannot continue if Rhode Island is to meet its  
2 statutory emission reduction targets for 2035 and 2050; and

3 WHEREAS, The national Green New Deal has been developed and presented as a bold  
4 alternative to business as usual scenarios, and includes initiatives pertaining to the following  
5 matters:

- 6 • Providing adequate resources for public efforts for climate change adaptation;
- 7 • Creation of good paying jobs that provide a family a sustaining wage;
- 8 • Securing the following for all people in the United States for generations to come:
  - 9 (i) Clean air and water;
  - 10 (ii) Climate and community resiliency;
  - 11 (iii) Healthy food;
  - 12 (iv) Access to nature;
  - 13 (v) A sustainable environment; and
- 14 • Reversing deindustrialization and counteracting systemic injustice;
- 15 • Upgrading the building stock, including specifically, affordable, safe, adequate housing;
- 16 • Mitigating pollution, and cleaning up hazardous waste and abandoned sites;
- 17 • Restoring and protecting threatened, endangered and fragile ecosystems;
- 18 • Investing in research and developments and high-quality education for all people;
- 19 • Promoting local economic development and community wealth building and ownership;
- 20 • Assuring high-quality, affordable health care for all people;
- 21 • Achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050; and

22 WHEREAS, Rhode Island has proven its ability to be a top-ranked state in terms of clean  
23 energy and energy efficiency and must aim to transform and strengthen its economy to provide  
24 and maintain a good quality of life to the people of the state; now, therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
26 Providence Plantations hereby respectfully requests that the Rhode Island Green New Deal  
27 Research Council report their findings and recommendations regarding the potential benefits of  
28 green new deal initiatives to the House by May 15, 2019, and submit copies of their report to the  
29 Governor, the Speaker of the House, the Chairperson of the House Committee on Finance, the  
30 Chairperson of the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, the Chairperson of  
31 the House Committee on Corporations, the Chairperson of the House Committee on Labor, the  
32 Secretary of the Executive Office of Commerce, and the chairperson of the Executive Climate  
33 Change Coordinating Council; and be it further

34 RESOLVED, That this House hereby respectfully requests that the Secretary of the

1 Executive Office of Commerce shall consider and report on these findings and recommendations  
2 in the long term economic development vision and policy required by chapter 64.17 of title 42  
3 and that the chairperson of the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council shall consider  
4 and report on these findings and recommendations in the next update to the greenhouse gas  
5 emissions reduction plan prepared pursuant to chapter 64.17 of title 42; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
7 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Her Excellency the Governor, the Secretary of  
8 the Executive Office of Commerce and the Chairperson of the Executive Climate Change  
9 Coordinating Council.

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING AN ASSESSMENT OF THE BENEFITS TO RHODE ISLAND OF ENACTMENT OF A GREEN NEW DEAL, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE LEGISLATION BASED ON GREEN NEW DEAL PRINCIPLES.

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Goldin, Murray, Euer, and Sosnowski

Date Introduced: March 21, 2019

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Island, since the end of World War II, has typically preceded other  
2 New England states into economic recessions and followed them out of recessions, with the Great  
3 Recession of 2008 being a notable instance of this phenomenon; and

4 WHEREAS, The economic well-being of the people of Rhode Island has been impaired  
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6 adjoining states; and

7 WHEREAS, Rhode Island previously had a strong industrial economy with home-grown  
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9 through periods of economic stagnation that have adversely affected the broad base of its  
10 population; and

11 WHEREAS, There is strong scientific and international consensus that the level of  
12 greenhouse emissions must be substantially reduced, and Rhode Island is a participant in this  
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  - 12 (iv) Access to nature;
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- 14 • Reversing deindustrialization and counteracting systemic injustice;
- 15 • Upgrading the building stock, including specifically, affordable, safe, adequate housing;
- 16 • Mitigating pollution, and cleaning up hazardous waste and abandoned sites;
- 17 • Restoring and protecting threatened, endangered and fragile ecosystems;
- 18 • Investing in research and developments and high-quality education for all people;
- 19 • Promoting local economic development and community wealth building and ownership;
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26 hereby respectfully requests that the Rhode Island Green New Deal Research Council report their  
27 findings and recommendations regarding the potential benefits of green new deal initiatives to the  
28 Senate by May 15, 2019, and submit copies of their report to the Governor, the President of the  
29 Senate, the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Finance, the Chairperson of the Senate  
30 Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on  
31 Corporations, the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Labor, the Secretary of the Executive  
32 Office of Commerce, and the chairperson of the Executive Climate Change Coordinating  
33 Council; and be it further

34 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby respectfully requests that the Secretary of the

1 Executive Office of Commerce shall consider and report on these findings and recommendations  
2 in the long term economic development vision and policy required by chapter 64.17 of title 42  
3 and that the chairperson of the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council shall consider  
4 and report on these findings and recommendations in the next update to the greenhouse gas  
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6 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
7 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Her Excellency the Governor, the Secretary of  
8 the Executive Office of Commerce and the Chairperson of the Executive Climate Change  
9 Coordinating Council.

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