

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 30, 2023

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 16, 2023

Senate Joint Resolution

No. 2

Introduced by Senator Gonzalez
(Coauthors: Senators Allen, Becker, and Wiener) Wiener, and Stern)
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Lee)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Lee, Connolly, and Kalra)

February 17, 2023

Senate Joint Resolution No. 2—Relative to climate change and fossil fuels.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 2, as amended, Gonzalez. Climate change: Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

This measure would, among other things, formally endorse the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, state California's agreement with the principle of nonproliferation of fossil fuels, and urge the United States government to join in formally developing a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The scientific consensus is clear that human
- 2 activities are primarily responsible for accelerating global climate
- 3 change, and that the climate crisis now represents one of the
- 4 preeminent threats to global civilization; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Fossil fuels are the largest contributor to global
- 6 climate change, accounting for 75 percent of greenhouse gas
- 7 emissions; and

1 WHEREAS, The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
2 (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report ~~from Working Group III,~~
3 *Synthesis Report*, approved by 195 member states in ~~April 2022,~~
4 *March 2023*, notes that greatly reduced fossil fuel use would be
5 fundamental to limiting warming and warned that existing fossil
6 fuel infrastructure was already sufficient to breach the 1.5 degrees
7 Celsius limit; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2021, the United Nations Human Rights Council
9 adopted landmark legislation, Resolution 48/13, recognizing a
10 clean, healthy, and sustainable environment is a human right; and

11 WHEREAS, The Paris Agreement makes no mention of coal,
12 oil, and gas, an omission with respect to the supply and production
13 of fossil fuels, the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, that
14 needs to be collectively addressed by other means; and

15 WHEREAS, The Glasgow Climate Pact improved only
16 incrementally in calling for a phasedown of unabated coal, not a
17 phaseout of all fossil fuels; and

18 WHEREAS, Changes in California's climate are already being
19 felt with extreme wildfires, heat waves, droughts, and increasingly
20 severe storms, as well as rising sea levels, coastal inundation, and
21 ocean warming; and

22 WHEREAS, Our entire community is impacted by the health
23 and safety risks of fossil fuel expansion, particularly those who
24 also face socioeconomic and health inequities, including
25 low-income families, those experiencing homelessness, people of
26 color and Indigenous peoples, youth, seniors, those experiencing
27 mental health challenges and physical disabilities, and people with
28 health conditions; and

29 WHEREAS, Youth and future generations have the most to lose
30 from a lack of immediate action to stop fossil fuel expansion as
31 they face major and lifelong health, ecological, social, and
32 economic impacts from climate change, including food and water
33 shortages, infectious diseases, and natural disasters; and

34 WHEREAS, The International Monetary Fund found that the
35 fossil fuel industry was globally subsidized by \$11,000,000 per
36 minute in 2020, siphoning away funding needed by cities,
37 communities, and other industries; and

38 WHEREAS, According to the United Nations ~~Environmental~~
39 ~~Program~~ *Environment Programme* Production Gap Report,
40 governments and the fossil fuel industry are currently planning to

1 produce about 110 percent more fossil fuels by 2030 than what is
2 needed to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and avert
3 catastrophic climate disruption; and

4 WHEREAS, The International Institute for Sustainable
5 Development has found a “large consensus” across all published
6 studies that developing new oil and gas fields is “incompatible”
7 with the 1.5 degrees Celsius target, including the International
8 Energy Agency that found that there are “no new oil and gas fields
9 approved for development in our [1.5 degrees Celsius] pathway”;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, A clean energy transition presents greater economic
12 opportunities than continued dependence on fossil fuel use and
13 extraction; and

14 WHEREAS, Our community is committed, as part of our climate
15 emergency response, to a just energy transition and to ambitious
16 investments in green infrastructure and workforce training, and
17 industries that will create high-paying and skilled union jobs and
18 rapidly decarbonize our economy; and

19 WHEREAS, California recognizes that it is the urgent
20 responsibility and moral obligation of wealthy fossil fuel producers
21 to manage the decline and phaseout of existing production; and

22 WHEREAS, A global initiative is underway calling for a Fossil
23 Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty that would provide a global
24 mechanism to end new fossil fuel exploration and expansion,
25 manage a phaseout of existing production in line with the global
26 commitment to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and accelerate
27 equitable transition plans; and

28 WHEREAS, The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty has been
29 formally called for by Vanuatu at the United Nations General
30 Assembly and by Tuvalu at the Sharm el-Sheikh Climate Change
31 Conference (COP 27) in addition to public endorsements from the
32 World Health Organization, the European Parliament, the Vatican,
33 and over 70 cities and subnational governments globally, including
34 the California Cities of Los Angeles, Hayward, Richmond, Santa
35 Ana, and Sebastopol, as well as the Hawaii State Legislature; now,
36 therefore, be it

37 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
38 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature formally endorses the call
39 for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Legislature urges the United States
2 government to join the global community in formally developing
3 a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty as an international
4 mechanism to manage a global transition away from coal, oil, and
5 gas; and be it further
6 *Resolved*, That California agrees with the principle of the
7 nonproliferation of fossil fuels and the need to end the expansion
8 of new coal, oil, and gas production; and be it further
9 *Resolved*, That California affirms the need for a plan to phase
10 out existing fossil fuel production that prioritizes the most impacted
11 workers and local government services with short- and long-term
12 investments that include enforceable labor standards, such as
13 prevailing wages, apprenticeship opportunities, and project labor
14 agreements, to protect workers and communities; and be it further
15 *Resolved*, That the Legislature affirms its ongoing commitment
16 to the goals of the Paris Agreement, the United Nations Sustainable
17 Development Goals, and the greenhouse gas reduction targets as
18 called for by the IPCC, and intends to meet its proportionate
19 greenhouse gas reductions under the Paris Agreement; and be it
20 further
21 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
22 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
23 States, to the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of
24 Representatives, to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the
25 Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the
26 Congress of the United States, to the Governor, to the mayor of
27 each city in California, to the United Nations ~~Secretary General~~,
28 *Secretary-General*, and to the United Nations High Commissioner
29 for Human Rights.

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32 REVISIONS: _____
33 Heading—Lines 2 and 3.
34 _____