

REFERENCE TITLE: *climate change.*

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-third Legislature
Second Regular Session
2018

HCM 2009

Introduced by
Representatives Peten: Andrade, Benally, Blanc, Bolding, Cardenas,
Clark, Clodfelter, Descheenie, Engel, Epstein, Espinoza, Fernandez,
Gabaldón, Hernandez, Powers Hannley, Rios, Salman

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION TO TAKE STEPS TO COMBAT CLIMATE
CHANGE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Arizona Corporation Commission:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, the average temperature in the United States has increased
4 by 1.3°F to 1.9°F since recordkeeping began in 1895, and most of this
5 increase has occurred since about 1970. The most recent decade was the
6 nation's warmest on record; and

7 Whereas, the United States Environmental Protection Agency reports
8 that Arizona has warmed up by two degrees Fahrenheit in the last century,
9 and approximately 1,300 deaths from exposure to excessive natural heat
10 have occurred in Arizona from 2005 to 2015; and

11 Whereas, nearly two-thirds of Arizonans believe that climate change
12 is one of the most serious problems facing the world today; and

13 Whereas, three-quarters of Arizonans believe the Earth's temperature
14 is rising and, of those, 79 percent attributed the warming to human
15 activities; and

16 Whereas, the snowpack in Arizona has been decreasing since the
17 1950s, decreasing water supplies and shortening the winter season for the
18 state's tourism and recreation; and

19 Whereas, increased warming, drought and insect outbreaks, all caused
20 by or linked to climate change, have increased wildfires and impacts to
21 people and ecosystems in the state; and

22 Whereas, the effects of climate change pose a threat to the state's
23 top agricultural products, and reduced yields from increasing temperatures
24 and increasing competition for scarce water supplies will displace jobs in
25 Arizona rural communities; and

26 Whereas, in response to these and other widely recognized
27 consequences of climate change, 195 countries negotiated the 2015 Paris
28 Agreement in order to limit global warming below 2 degrees Celsius above
29 preindustrial temperatures; and

30 Whereas, the President's decision to withdraw the United States from
31 the agreement will not stop the global community's efforts to reduce
32 carbon emissions and halt global warming; and

33 Whereas, the We Are Still In Coalition, which includes several
34 states and thousands of businesses, universities and local governments,
35 has committed to meeting the US goal under the Paris Agreement despite the
36 President's withdrawal; and

37 Whereas, this state can and should join the We Are Still In
38 Coalition and actively contribute to reducing carbon emissions and rising
39 global temperatures, including by promoting renewable energy generation.

40 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of
41 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

42 1. That the Arizona Corporation Commission increase this state's
43 renewable energy requirements, as provided in R14-2-1804 of the Arizona

1 administrative code, for affected utilities to 25 percent by 2025, 35
2 percent by 2030 and 40 percent by 2035.

3 2. That the Arizona Corporation Commission undertake efforts to
4 modernize this state's electricity distribution grid, including a capacity
5 analysis to inform efficient and effective future placement of distributed
6 generation and storage.