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Power

116TH CONGRESS

1ST SESSION H. RES. ~~_____~~



Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to
create a Green New Deal.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government
to create a Green New Deal.

Whereas the October 2018 report entitled
“Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C”
by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate
Change and the November 2018 Fourth

National Climate Assessment report found that—

- (1) human activity is the dominant cause of observed climate change over the past century;
- (2) a changing climate is causing sea levels to rise and an increase in wildfires, severe storms, droughts, and other extreme weather events that threaten human life, healthy communities, and critical infrastructure;

Fm 00001

(3) global warming at or above 2 degrees celsius beyond preindustrialized levels will cause—

- (A) mass migration from the regions most affected by climate change;
- (B) more than \$500,000,000,000 in lost annual economic output in the United States by the year 2100;

- (C) wildfires that, by 2050, will annually burn at least twice as much forest area in the western United States than was typically burned by wildfires in the years preceding 2019;
- (D) a loss of more than 99 percent of all coral reefs on Earth;
- (E) more than 350,000,000 more people to be exposed globally to deadly heat stress by 2050; and
- (F) a risk of damage to \$1,000,000,000,000 of public infrastructure and coastal real estate in the United States; and
- (4) global temperatures must be kept below 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrialized levels to avoid the most severe impacts of a changing climate, which will require—

- (A) global reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from human sources of 40 to 60 percent from 2010 levels by 2030; and
- (B) net-zero global emissions by 2050;

Whereas, because 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;

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Whereas the United States is currently experiencing several related crises, with—

- (1) life expectancy declining while basic needs, such as clean air, clean water, healthy food, and adequate health care, housing,

transportation, and education, are inaccessible to a significant portion of the United States population;

(2) a 4-decade trend of wage stagnation, deindustrialization, and antilabor policies that has led to—

(A) hourly wages overall stagnating since the

1970s despite increased worker productivity;

(B) the third-worst level of socioeconomic mobility in the developed world before the Great Recession;

(C) the erosion of the earning and bargaining power of workers in the United States; and

(D) inadequate resources for public sector workers to confront the challenges of climate change at local, State, and Federal levels; and

(3) the greatest income inequality since the 1920s, with

(A) the top 1 percent of earners accruing 71 percent of gains in the first few years of economic recovery after the Great Recession;

(B) a large racial wealth divide amounting to a difference of 20 times more wealth between the average white family and the average black family; and

(C) a gender earnings gap that results in women earning approximately 80 percent as much as men, at the median;

Whereas climate change, pollution, and environmental destruction have exacerbated systemic racial, regional, so-

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cial, environmental, and economic injustices (referred to in this preamble as "systemic

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 (referred to in this preamble as "frontline and vulnerable communities");

Whereas, climate change constitutes a direct threat to the national security of the United States—

- (1) by impacting the economic, environmental, and social stability of countries and communities around the world; and
- (2) by acting as a threat multiplier;

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 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—

- (1) to create millions of good, high-wage jobs in the United States;
- (2) to provide unprecedented levels of prosperity and economic security for all people of the United States; and
- (3) to counteract systemic injustices; Now, therefore, be it

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*Resolved, That it is the sense of the House
of Representatives that—*

(1) it is the duty of the Federal Government to

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create a Green New Deal—

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*(A) to achieve net-zero greenhouse
gas*

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emissions through a fair and just

transition for all communities

and workers;

8 *(B) to create millions of good, high-wage*

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9 jobs and ensure prosperity and economic

secu20 rity for all people of the United States;

22 (C) to invest in the infrastructure and in22

dustry of the United States to sustainably meet

23 the challenges of the 21st century;

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(D) to secure for all people of
the United

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States for generations to
come—

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(i) clean air and water;

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(ii) climate and community
resiliency;

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(iii) healthy food;

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(iv) access to nature; and

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(v) a sustainable environment;

and

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(E) to promote justice and

equity by stop^{2.2}ping current,

preventing future, and repairing

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historic oppression of indigenous peoples,

com-

munities of color, migrant communities,

deindustrialized

communities,

depopulated rural

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communities, the poor, low-income
workers, women, the elderly, the
unhoused, people with disabilities, and
youth (referred to in this reso-

4 lution as "frontline and vulnerable commu-
5 nities");

6 (2) the goals described in subparagraphs (A)
7 through (E) of paragraph (1) (referred to in
this

8 resolution as the "Green New Deal goals")
should

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9 be accomplished through a 10-year national

mobilization (referred to in this resolution as

the "Green

11 New Deal mobilization") that will require
the fol-

12 lowing goals and projects

13 (A) building resiliency against climate 14

change-related disasters, such as extreme

15 weather, including, by leveraging
funding and

16 providing investments for community-
defined

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17 projects and strategies;

18 (B) repairing and upgrading the

infra¹⁹ structure in the United States,

including— 20 (i) by eliminating

pollution and green-

21 house gas emissions as much
as technolo-

22 logically feasible;

23 (ii) by guaranteeing universal
access

to clean water;

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(iii) by reducing the risks posed by

climate impacts; and

(iv) by ensuring that any infrastruc-

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ture bill considered by
Congress addresses

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climate change;

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(c) meeting 100 percent of
the power de-

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mand in the United States
through clean, re-

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newable, and zero-emission
energy sources, in-

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cluding—

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(i) by dramatically expanding
and up-

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grading renewable power
sources; and

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(ii) by deploying new capacity;

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(D) building or upgrading to

energy-efficient,

distributed, and “smart”

power grids,¹⁵ and ensuring

affordable access to

electricity;

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(E) upgrading all existing buildings
in the

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United States and building new
buildings to

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achieve maximum energy efficiency,
water effi-

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ciency, safety, affordability,

comfort, and durability,

including through electrification;

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(F) spurring massive growth in clean man22

ufacturing in the United States and removing

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pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from

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manufacturing and industry as much as
is technologically feasible, including by
expanding re-

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newable energy manufacturing and
investing in existing manufacturing and
industry;

(G) working collaboratively with farmers

- 4 and ranchers in the United States to remove
- 5 pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from
- 6 the agricultural sector as much as is techno-

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7 logically feasible, including—

8 (i) by supporting family farming;

9 (ii) by investing in sustainable farm

and land use practices that increase soil

health; and

12

(iii) by building a more
sustainable

13

food system that ensures

universal access to healthy

food;

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15 (H) overhauling transportation
systems in

16 the United States to remove
pollution and

17 greenhouse gas emissions from the
transport

18 tation sector as much as is
technologically fea-

19 sible, including through investment
in

20 (i) zero-emission vehicle

infrastructure and

manufacturing;

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(ii) clean, affordable, and
accessible

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public transit; and

(iii) high-speed rail;

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(i) mitigating and managing the
long-term adverse health, economic, and other
effects of pollution and climate change,
including by providing funding for community-
defined projects and strategies;

6 (3) removing greenhouse gases from the

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7 atmosphere and reducing pollution by
restoring

8 natural ecosystems through proven low-tech

so⁹ lutions that increase soil carbon storage,

such 10 as land preservation and afforestation;

11

(K) restoring and protecting
threatened,

12

endangered, and fragile ecosystems

through 13 tally appropriate and

science-based projects

14

that enhance biodiversity and
support climate

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15 resiliency;

16 (L) cleaning up existing hazardous
waste

17 and abandoned sites, ensuring

economic development and

sustainability on those sites;

19 (M) identifying other emission and pollu20

tion sources and creating solutions to remove

21 them; and

22 (N) promoting the international
exchange

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of technology, expertise, products,
funding, and

services, with the aim of making the United
States the international leader on climate ac-

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tion, and to help other countries

achieve a Green New Deal;

(3) a Green New Deal must be

developed 4 through transparent and inclusive
consultation, col-

5 laboration, and partnership with frontline
and vul-

6 nerable communities, labor unions, worker
cooperat tives, civil society groups,
academia, and businesses;

8 and

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(4) to achieve the Green New Deal goals and

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mobilization, a Green New Deal will require the fol-

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Following goals and projects—

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(A) providing and leveraging, in a way that

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ensures that the public receives appropriate

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ownership stakes and returns on investment,

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adequate capital (including
through community

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grants, public banks, and other

public financing), technical

expertise, supporting policies,

18

and other forms of assistance to
communities,

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organizations, Federal, State, and local

government agencies, and

businesses working on the 21 Green

New Deal mobilization;

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(B) ensuring that the Federal
Government

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takes into account the complete
environmental
and social costs and impacts of
emissions through—

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(i) existing laws;

(ii) new policies and programs; and

(iii) ensuring that frontline and vul-

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vulnerable communities shall not be
adversely

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affected;

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(C) providing resources, training,
and

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high-quality education, including

higher education, to all people of

the United States, with

9 a focus on frontline and vulnerable commu10

nities, so that all people of the United States

11

may be full and equal participants
in the Green

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New Deal mobilization;

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(D) making public investments in
the re-

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search and development of new
clean and re-

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newable energy technologies and
industries;

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(E) directing investments to spur
economic

17

development, deepen and diversify

industry and 18 business in local

and regional economies, and

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build wealth and community ownership,
while

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prioritizing high-quality job creation

and eco21 nomic, social, and

environmental benefits in

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frontline and vulnerable communities,
and

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deindustrialized communities, that may
other-

wise struggle with the transition away
from greenhouse gas intensive
industries;

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(F) ensuring the use of democratic
and participatory processes that are
inclusive of and led by frontline and
vulnerable communities and
workers to plan, implement, and
administer the
Green New Deal mobilization at the
local level;

(G) ensuring that the Green New Deal
mobilization creates high-quality
union jobs that

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8 pay prevailing wages, hires local workers, offers

9 training and advancement opportunities, and

10 guarantees wage and benefit parity for
workers

11 affected by the transition;

12 (H) guaranteeing a job with a family-

13 sus13 training wage, adequate family

and medical

14 leave, paid vacations, and retirement security to

15 all people of the United States;

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(i) strengthening and protecting
the right

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of all workers to organize, unionize,

and collectively bargain free of

coercion, intimidation, and

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harassment;

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(ii) strengthening and enforcing
labor,

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workplace health and safety,
antidiscrimination,

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and wage and hour standards
across all employ-

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ers, industries, and sectors;

(K) enacting and enforcing trade rules, procurement standards, and border adjustments

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with strong labor and environmental protections

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(i) to stop the transfer of jobs and pollution overseas; and

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(ii) to grow domestic manufacturing

6 in the United States;

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(L) ensuring that public lands,
waters, and

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oceans are protected and that
eminent domain⁹ is not abused;

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(M) obtaining the free, prior, and
informed

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consent of indigenous peoples for
all decisions

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that affect indigenous peoples and
their traditional territories,

honoring all treaties and

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14 agreements with indigenous peoples, and pro

15 tecting and enforcing the sovereignty and land

16 rights of indigenous peoples;

17

(N) ensuring a commercial environment

18

where every businessperson is free from unfair

19

competition and domination by

20 domestic or international

monopolies; and

21

(O) providing all people of the United

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States with—

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(i) high-quality health care;

(ii) affordable, safe,

and adequate housing;

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(iii) *economic security*; and

(iv) *clean water, clean air,*

healthy and affordable food, and

access to nature.

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