

By: Raymond

H.C.R. No. 15

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Climate change is a complex issue with important
2 implications for economic stability, national security, and public
3 health for future generations of Texans; and

4 WHEREAS, In February 2017, the Climate Leadership Council
5 released a compelling report outlining the conservative case for
6 addressing climate change; the international research and advocacy
7 group's members include one of the Lone Star State's most respected
8 native sons, former U.S. secretary of state James Baker, as well as
9 members of the Ronald Reagan administration and both Bush
10 administrations, namely Martin Feldstein and N. Gregory Mankiw,
11 former chairs of the President's Council of Economic Advisers,
12 Henry M. Paulson Jr., former secretary of the treasury, George
13 P. Shultz, former secretary of state, and Thomas Stephenson, former
14 ambassador to Portugal and now a partner at Sequoia Capital; the
15 organization's other members are Rob Walton, longtime chair of
16 Walmart, and Ted Halstead, founder, president, and CEO of the
17 Climate Leadership Council and founder of the New America think
18 tank; and

19 WHEREAS, The council's report states that evidence of climate
20 change is too powerful to ignore; although the extent of human
21 influence on climate is debated, the risks posed are such that the
22 world needs a kind of "insurance policy," the authors warn; climate
23 solutions based on sound economic analysis would build prosperity,
24 benefit working Americans, reduce regulations, and protect our

1 natural heritage; and

2 WHEREAS, In the Reagan era, economists conducted a
3 cost-benefit analysis to assess the risks of the growing hole in the
4 ozone layer, and the president then threw his weight behind a
5 landmark treaty, the Montreal Protocol, which implemented a
6 pragmatic, market-based solution to the environmental problem;
7 Mr. Baker, Mr. Shultz, and the other members of the Climate
8 Leadership Council support a similar conservative,
9 limited-government approach to climate change, and economists of
10 diverse viewpoints today concur that the economic benefits of
11 grappling with climate change greatly outweigh the costs; for
12 instance, while no single natural disaster can be attributed to
13 climate change, it has increased the risk of catastrophic events
14 such as Superstorm Sandy and Hurricanes Ike, Rita, Katrina, and
15 Harvey; in 2017, the National Centers for Environmental Information
16 recorded 16 weather and climate disaster events that each exceeded
17 \$1 billion in costs, with a cumulative cost of more than \$300
18 billion; and

19 WHEREAS, Many of the nation's leaders have spoken out about
20 the need to address climate change, including former vice president
21 Al Gore, who said, "Solutions to the climate crisis are within
22 reach, but in order to capture them we must take urgent action today
23 across every level of society"; former president Barack Obama
24 stated that "the shift to a cleaner energy economy won't happen
25 overnight, and it will require tough choices along the way. But the
26 debate is settled. Climate change is a fact. And when our children's
27 children look us in the eye and ask if we did all we could to leave

1 them a safer, more stable world, with new sources of energy, I want
2 us to be able to say yes, we did"; another former president, Bill
3 Clinton, explained that "climate change is more remote than terror
4 but a more profound threat to the future of the children and the
5 grandchildren and the great-grandchildren I hope all of you
6 have. . . . It's the only thing we face today that has the power to
7 remove the preconditions of civilized society"; and

8 WHEREAS, Climate change will negatively impact agriculture,
9 coastal cities, and political stability in already-volatile
10 regions of the world, and such developments could imperil our
11 American way of life; leaders in Washington, D.C., should
12 investigate how best to mitigate the dangers to ensure a stable,
13 prosperous future for the generations to come, for as the current
14 U.S. secretary of defense, General James Mattis, declared,
15 "Climate change is impacting stability in areas of the world where
16 our troops are operating today"; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas
18 hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to conduct a
19 cost-benefit analysis regarding the risks of climate change and
20 appropriate measures to address those risks; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
22 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
23 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of
24 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the
25 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that
26 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a
27 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.