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**City of Las Cruces**<sup>®</sup>  
 PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

**Council Action and Executive Summary**

Item # 9 Ordinance/Resolution# 15-005, \_\_\_

For Meeting of \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Ordinance First Reading Date)

For Meeting of July 7, 2014  
 (Adoption Date)

Please check box that applies to this item:

QUASI JUDICIAL       LEGISLATIVE       ADMINISTRATIVE

**TITLE: A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.**

**PURPOSE(S) OF ACTION:**

To support national legislation.

<b>COUNCIL DISTRICT: N/A</b>		
<b><u>Drafter/Staff Contact:</u></b> Monica Campbell	<b><u>Department/Section:</u></b> Legal/City Attorney	<b><u>Phone:</u></b> 541-2128
<b><u>City Manager Signature:</u></b> 		

**BACKGROUND / KEY ISSUES / CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:**

Climate scientists worldwide are in near unanimous agreement that the planet Earth is warming rapidly and to a degree that is perilous to human civilization, to numerous species, and to the global ecosystem. The primary cause of the rapid warming is human activity, especially through the accelerating combustion of fossil fuels that create carbon dioxide as a byproduct.

The newly released 2014 Report by the Intergovernmental panel on Climate Change ("IPCC") has reinforced these findings, especially the extent of human agency in causing climate change, to include:

- 1) Atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide have increased to levels unprecedented in the last 800,000 years with carbon dioxide concentrations having increased by 40% since pre-industrial times.
- 2) It is extremely likely that more than half of the observed increases in global average surface temperatures from 1951 to 2010 were caused by the manmade increase in greenhouse gas concentrations and other anthropogenic forces.
- 3) Every additional release of greenhouse gases diminishes planet Earth's chances of avoiding catastrophic climate change.

(Continue on additional sheets as required)

The United States Global Change Research Program, in its 2014 National Climate Assessment, makes this statement about climate change in the Southwestern United States:

“Increased heat, drought, and insect outbreaks, all linked to climate change, have increased wildfires. Declining water supplies, reduced agricultural yields, health impacts in cities due to heat, and flood and erosion in coastal areas are additional concerns.”

See <http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/highlights/regions/southwest>.

The Las Cruces City Council has a record of acknowledging the reality of climate change, its probable effects on the City and its ability and responsibility to reduce its contribution to the causes of climate change, as evidenced by the City's endorsement of the United States Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, and the adoption of the City's Sustainability Action Plan.

The urgent need to transition from fossil fuels can best be accomplished with a market based program. Such a program would encourage consumers and the market to replace their consumption of carbon based energy with innovative energy sources, whether by being more efficient or by choosing other, less carbon intensive energy sources. Further delay in responding to this crisis increases the risk of catastrophic climate change, imminently threatens low lying coastal areas and land and sea species, threatens water supplies, increases the frequency of severe weather events, increases the cost of undertaking adequate responses, and increases risks to the global economy.

The City of Las Cruces has been selected by the United States Department of Agriculture (“USDA”) as a “Climate Hub” for the Southwest Region. The “Climate Hub” designation means that the USDA delivers science based knowledge and practical information to farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners that supports decision making in adapting to climate change in agriculture production, natural resource management and rural economic development under increasing climate variability.

The City Council urges the United States Congress to pass legislation that reduces carbon dioxide equivalent emissions of fossil fuels in the atmosphere sufficient to:

- 1) Encourage individuals and corporations to produce and move to low or no carbon based energy.
- 2) Support the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed plan that aims to slash carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants 30% by 2030 and accelerate the nation's shift away from coal.
- 3) Reduce all United States carbon dioxide equivalent emissions to 10% of 1990 levels by 2050 as recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report in order to maintain temperature increases to no more than two degrees Celsius.

(Continue on additional sheets as required)

4) Support united States Senator Udall's National Renewable Electricity Standard (S.1595 – 113<sup>th</sup> Congress (2013-2014), Renewable Electricity Standard Act of 2013) to include an objective that 25% of electrical energy be produced from renewable sources by 2025, and that the Rio Grande Environmental Management Program be funded.

5) Encourage similar actions by other nations trading with the United States.

**SUPPORT INFORMATION:**

1. Resolution.

**SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

Is this action already budgeted?  N/A	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	See fund summary below
	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	If No, then check one below:
	<i>Budget Adjustment Attached</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Expense reallocated from: _____.
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed funding is from a new revenue source (i.e. grant; see details below)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed funding is from fund balance in the _____ Fund.	
Does this action create any revenue?  N/A	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Funds will be deposited into this fund: _____ in the amount of \$_____ for FY_____.
	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	There is no new revenue generated by this action.

**BUDGET NARRATIVE**

N/A
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**FUND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY:**

Fund Name(s)	Account Number(s)	Expenditure Proposed	Available Budgeted Funds in Current FY	Remaining Funds	Purpose for Remaining Funds
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES:**

- Vote "Yes"; this will indicate the City Council's support of national climate change legislation.
- Vote "No"; this will indicate that the City Council does not support national climate change legislation.
- Vote to "Amend"; this could include further direction to staff.

(Continue on additional sheets as required)

4. Vote to "Table"; this could delay indication of the City Council's support of national climate change legislation.

**REFERENCE INFORMATION:**

The resolution(s) and/or ordinance(s) listed below are only for reference and are not included as attachments or exhibits.

N/A

(Continue on additional sheets as required)

**RESOLUTION NO. 15-005****A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.**

The City Council is informed that:

**WHEREAS**, climate scientists worldwide are in near unanimous agreement that the planet Earth is warming rapidly and to a degree that is perilous to human civilization, to numerous species, and to the global ecosystem; and

**WHEREAS**, the primary cause of the rapid warming is human activity, especially through the accelerating combustion of fossil fuels that create carbon dioxide as a byproduct; and

**WHEREAS**, the newly released 2014 Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (“IPCC”) has reinforced these findings, especially the extent of human agency in causing climate change, to include:

1) Atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide have increased to levels unprecedented in the last 800,000 years with carbon dioxide concentrations having increased by 40% since pre-industrial times;

2) It is extremely likely that more than half of the observed increases in global average surface temperatures from 1951 to 2010 were caused by the manmade increase in greenhouse gas concentrations and other anthropogenic forces;

3) Every additional release of greenhouse gases diminishes the planet Earth’s chances of avoiding catastrophic climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Global Change Research Program, in its 2014 National Climate Assessment, makes this statement about climate change in the Southwestern United States: “Increased heat, drought, and insect outbreaks, all linked

to climate change, have increased wildfires. Declining water supplies, reduced agricultural yields, health impacts in cities due to heat, and flooding and erosion in coastal areas are additional concerns.”<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the Las Cruces City Council has a record of acknowledging the reality of climate change, its probable effects on the City and its ability and responsibility to reduce its contribution to the causes of climate change, as evidenced by the City’s endorsement of the United States Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, and the adoption of the City’s Sustainability Action Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the urgent need to transition from fossil fuels can best be accomplished with a market based program. Such a program would encourage consumers and the market to replace their consumption of carbon based energy with innovative energy sources, whether by being more efficient or by choosing other, less carbon intensive energy sources; and

**WHEREAS**, further delay in responding to this crisis increases the risk of catastrophic climate change, imminently threatens low lying coastal areas and land and sea species, threatens water supplies, increases the frequency of severe weather events, increases the cost of undertaking adequate responses, and increases risks to the global economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Las Cruces has been selected by the United States Department of Agriculture (“USDA”) as a “Climate Hub” for the Southwest Region. The “Climate Hub” designation means that the USDA delivers science based knowledge and

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<sup>1</sup> <http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/highlights/regions/southwest>

practical information to farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners that supports decision making in adapting to climate change in agriculture production, natural resource management, and rural economic development under increasing climate variability.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** Be it resolved by the governing body of the City of Las Cruces:

**(I)**

**THAT** it urges the United States Congress to pass legislation that reduces carbon dioxide equivalent emissions of fossil fuels in the atmosphere sufficient to:

1) Encourage individuals and corporations to produce and move to low or no carbon based energy;

2) Support the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed plan that aims to slash carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants 30% by 2030 and accelerate the nation's shift away from coal;

3) Reduce all United States carbon dioxide equivalent emissions to 10% of 1990 levels by 2050 as recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report in order to maintain temperature increases to no more than two degrees Celsius;

4) Support United States Senator Tom Udall's National Renewable Electricity Standard (S.1595 – 113<sup>th</sup> Congress (2013-2014), Renewable Electricity Standard Act of 2013) to include an objective that 25% of electrical energy be produced from renewable sources by 2025, and that the Rio Grande Environmental Management Program be funded; and

5) Encourage similar actions by other nations trading with the United States.

(II)

THAT the Las Cruces City Council requests that this resolution be constructed and implemented with the speed appropriate to the gravity and urgency of the situation, and that it be shared with the New Mexico Congressional Delegation and to other officials or entities designated by the City Council or City Manager.

(III)

THAT City staff is hereby authorized to do all deeds as necessary in the accomplishment of the herein above.

DONE AND APPROVED on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

(SEAL)

VOTE:

Mayor Miyagishima: \_\_\_\_\_  
Councillor Silva: \_\_\_\_\_  
Councillor Smith: \_\_\_\_\_  
Councillor Pedroza: \_\_\_\_\_  
Councillor Small: \_\_\_\_\_  
Councillor Sorg: \_\_\_\_\_  
Councillor Levatino: \_\_\_\_\_

Moved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney  
*copy*