

**STATE OF MAINE**

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**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD**

**TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR**

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**JOINT RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE LEGISLATURE'S  
ONGOING COMMITMENT TO THE GOALS OF THE PARIS  
CLIMATE AGREEMENT AND SUPPORT OF THE FOSSIL FUEL  
NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY**

**WHEREAS**, the scientific consensus is clear that human activities are primarily responsible for accelerating global climate change and that the climate crisis now represents one of the preeminent threats to global civilization; and

**WHEREAS**, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC, reported in 2018 that we must achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions, or GHGs, by the middle of this century in order to have a reasonable chance of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius; and

**WHEREAS**, the IPCC released its Sixth Assessment Report from Working Group II, which was approved by 195 member states, in February 2022, which notes that there is high confidence that "the rise in weather and climate extremes has led to some irreversible impacts as natural and human systems are pushed beyond their ability to adapt"; and

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has called the Working Group II report "an atlas of human suffering... according to current commitment, global emissions are set to increase almost 14 percent... It will destroy any chance of keeping 1.5 alive... coal and other fossil fuels are choking humanity"; and

**WHEREAS**, changes to the State's climate are already being felt, including such impacts as rising seas, an increased number of high heat days, increasingly frequent high intensity rain events and dramatic ocean heat waves in the Gulf of Maine that threaten natural ecosystems and the maritime economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the entire State is affected by the health and safety risks of fossil fuel expansion, particularly those who also face socioeconomic and health inequities, including low-income families; those experiencing homelessness; Black persons, indigenous persons and people of color; youth; seniors; those experiencing mental and physical disabilities; and people with health conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, our youth and future generations have the most to lose from a lack of immediate action to stop fossil fuel expansion as they face major and lifelong health, ecological, social and economic impacts from prolonged and cumulative effects of climate change, including food and water shortages, infectious diseases and natural disasters; and

**WHEREAS**, the Paris Climate Agreement remains silent on coal, oil and gas, an omission with respect to the supply and production of fossil fuels, which are the largest source of GHGs, that needs to be collectively addressed by other means; and

**WHEREAS**, global governments and the fossil fuel industry are currently planning to produce more than double the amount of coal, oil and gas by 2030 than can be burned if the

world is to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and avert catastrophic climate disruption, and such plans risk undoing the work of the State to reduce GHGs; and

**WHEREAS**, the construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure and expanded reliance on fossil fuels exposes communities to untenable risks to public health and safety at the local and global levels; and

**WHEREAS**, the economic opportunities presented by a clean energy transition far outweigh the opportunities presented by an economy supported by expanding fossil fuel extraction and use; and

**WHEREAS**, the State is committed, as part of our climate emergency response, to a just energy transition and to ambitious investments in the green infrastructure and industries that will create jobs and rapidly decarbonize our economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature recognizes that it is the urgent responsibility and moral obligation of fossil fuel producers to lead in putting an end to fossil fuel development and to manage the reduction of existing production; and

**WHEREAS**, a new global initiative calling for a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty would end new fossil fuel exploration and expansion, phase out existing production in line with the global commitment to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and accelerate equitable transition plans; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That We, the members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, express our support for a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty, urge the United States Government to support a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty and express our support for the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and the GHGs reduction targets as called for by the IPCC.