

AB 32 – GLOBAL WARMING SOLUTIONS ACT OF 2006

SPEAKER FABIAN NÚÑEZ & ASSEMBLYMEMBER FRAN PAVLEY

IN BRIEF

Global climate change is expected to have a devastating impact on California's economy, environment, and public health if aggressive action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is not taken soon. AB 32 institutes a mandatory limit (cap) on greenhouse gas pollution -- reducing emissions in California to 1990 levels by the year 2020, or 25% below forecasted levels. The bill also directs the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to establish a mandatory reporting system to track and monitor emission levels and requires CARB to develop various compliance options and enforcement mechanisms.

THE ISSUE

There is broad scientific agreement that global climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels, poses a real threat to California's future. If left unchecked, global warming threatens California's air quality, water supply, public health, power grid reliability, and some of the state's largest industries, including agriculture, tourism, skiing and forestry.

Independent economic studies and state agency reports conclude that reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 is achievable and will save California families and businesses *billions* of dollars and provide tens of thousands of new jobs by 2020.

California can achieve these savings through pollution-cutting investments and programmatic initiatives in areas such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, cleaner cars and fuels, improved transportation systems, and water conservation. Limiting greenhouse gas emissions will also provide additional economic and environmental benefits. For example, reducing air pollution from mobile and stationary sources as well as catalyzing the ingenuity and creativity of California entrepreneurs to create new businesses and develop cleaner technologies.

Compared against other countries, California is the twelfth largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world. AB 32 continues California's efforts to address environmental issues of worldwide importance. Clearly, the bill will have effects far beyond our borders, as other states and countries look to California for leadership. So while our state alone cannot stop global warming, the cumulative effect of California's actions and leadership can have a significant impact on the way other states and countries address the issue of global climate change.

EXISTING LAW

In the last several years, the California Legislature has passed several laws that address the issue of global climate change, including reducing emissions from automobiles, increasing the amount of renewable energy delivered to California utility customers, improving building and appliance efficiency standards, and establishing a voluntary registry to develop standardized greenhouse gas emission reporting and certification protocols.

THE SOLUTION

AB 32 establishes a cap on greenhouse gas pollution – reducing emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020, or 25% below forecasted levels. The bill also requires the California Air Resources Board to institute a mandatory emissions reporting and tracking system to monitor and enforce compliance with the cap. Additionally, AB 32 requires that CARB use the following principles to implement the cap:

- Distribute benefits and costs equitably;
- Protect entities that have reduced their emissions through actions prior to this regulatory mandate;
- Ensure that the program reduces pollution in local communities; and
- To the extent feasible, allow for coordination with other states and countries to reduce emissions.

The bill also requires CARB to develop various compliance options and enforcement mechanisms, and to cooperate with other state agencies to coordinate the state government's global climate change programmatic activities and promote investment in the development and deployment of technologies that reduce emissions.

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DRAFT

[CITY OF _____] CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Dated: _____

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LIMITING CALIFORNIA'S GLOBAL WARMING
POLLUTION (AB 32)**

WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of the world's climate scientists now agree that global warming is a real problem, that the pace of warming is likely to accelerate over the next century, and that human activity is the likely cause of the build-up in global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, global warming threatens California's air quality, water supply, public health, and economy, especially key industries such as agriculture and tourism; and

WHEREAS, addressing the impacts of global warming may severely burden state and local government agencies with new costs and obligations; and

WHEREAS, local governments significantly influence the community's global warming pollution emissions through their actions concerning land use, transportation, construction, waste management, energy supply, and energy management; and

WHEREAS, actions taken by local government to reduce global warming pollution and increase energy efficiency provide multiple local benefits by improving air quality and public health, and saving money for the local government, its businesses, and its residents; and

WHEREAS, independent economic studies demonstrate that reducing California's emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 is achievable and will save California families and businesses billions of dollars and provide tens of thousands of new jobs by 2020; and

WHEREAS, by acting soon to limit global warming pollution, California can capture significant economic benefits by securing a leadership position in the emerging worldwide clean energy market; and

WHEREAS, California has a long history of national leadership on environmental policy, and California's actions are critical to protect the state from global warming;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of _____ supports establishment of a mandatory limit on California's global warming pollution as proposed in Assembly Bill 32.