



Co-Chairs
Senator Terry Gerratana
Connecticut

Representative Kevin Ryan
Deputy Speaker
Connecticut

Director
Wendell M. Hannaford

RESOLUTION# ENV-2017-01

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CSG/ERC EFFORTS TO ACCELERATE
THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CLEAN-ENERGY ECONOMY

Whereas, the officers and members of the Energy & Environment Committee of The Council of State Governments/Eastern Regional Conference (CSG/ERC) are committed to supporting policies that reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, avoid harmful health impacts of air pollution, promote the development of solar, wind and other zero-carbon energy sources, and foster job growth and economic development in the fast-growing clean energy sector; and

Whereas, many CSG/ERC member states, provinces and territories are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of rising global temperatures, given their coastal geographical locations and/or the reliance of their local economies on climate-sensitive industries including agriculture, maple syrup production, fishing, skiing and other tourism-related sectors; and

Whereas, recent studies have shown that annual temperatures in the Northeastern U.S. and Eastern Canada are already rising due to increasing quantities of man-made greenhouse-gas emissions, leading to melting glaciers and permafrost, reduced snow packs, and less ice on lakes and rivers, among other consequences of warming; and

Whereas, reducing the region's dependence on fossil fuels will increase its energy security, keep energy dollars in the local economy and stimulate local job growth; and

Whereas, every state and province in the ERC has implemented renewable energy mandates, and most of the ERC's 18 member jurisdictions have created clear targets for reducing carbon emissions, by devising climate-action plans, involvement in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative or provincial cap-and-trade programs, and requiring reductions in tailpipe pollutants; and

Whereas, these policies have led to the creation of stable, well-paying jobs, contributed to a dramatic reduction in the cost of solar and wind technologies, and enabled the Northeast to claim a leadership role in the clean-energy economy; and

Whereas, solar, wind, energy efficiency, biomass, storage and hydroelectricity employed more than 536,000 people in the 11 northeastern states of the ERC in 2016, according to the U.S. Department of Energy; and

Whereas, accelerating the growth of clean-energy jobs and carbon reductions in the immediate future is critical, given that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate

Change (IPCC) forecasts that continued emissions of greenhouse gases at or above current levels would cause dramatic warming in the coming decades, leading to increased numbers of heat-related illnesses and deaths, and negative impacts on the region's environment, infrastructure and economy; and

Whereas, the historic Paris Agreement, signed by nearly every nation and all major emitters of greenhouse gases, seeks to limit the rise in Earth's temperature to 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius, which the international community has agreed is essential in order to avoid the worst-case projections of potential climate impacts due to warming; and

Whereas, the U.S.'s decision to withdraw from the agreement makes it imperative for the states and provinces in the CSG/ERC, and other states and provinces that are leaders in climate action and clean technology deployment and innovation, to accelerate and strengthen that role nationally and internationally; and

Whereas, the CSG/ERC Energy and Environment Committee could make an important contribution to the dialogue by convening stakeholders who must collaborate with other regulatory, legislative, private-sector and international governmental entities to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the transition to a clean-energy economy on a broad scale.

Therefore Be It Resolved, that CSG/ERC urges state and provincial governments to speed the implementation of programs to lower greenhouse gas emissions from all sectors, by increasing energy efficiency and conservation, boosting the use of renewable forms of energy including hydroelectricity, wind, solar and biofuels, promoting greater investment in mass transit, and encouraging the use of environmentally friendly technologies and practices; and

Be It Further Resolved, that CSG/ERC encourages member states and provinces to intensify their cooperative efforts to forge innovative policies, nationally and internationally, and develop new technologies aimed at accelerating greenhouse gas reductions on a regional level; and

Be It Further Resolved, that CSG/ERC's Energy & Environment Committee supports the efforts of its staff, along with staff from other relevant policy areas such as transportation, rural issues, health and fiscal affairs, to convene regular meetings between ERC members and a range of experts -- from the public and private sector, from academia and nonprofit organizations, both within and outside of the United States -- to devise best practices, tools and case studies that will help state and provincial officials identify the most cost-effective and successful ways to promote climate action and clean-energy growth; and

Be It Further Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Prime Minister of Canada, governors, legislative appointing authorities and minority leaders of the Northeast states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the premiers and speakers of the legislative assemblies of the Eastern Canadian provinces.

Adopted August 16th at the CSG/ERC Annual Meeting and Policy Forum Uncasville, Connecticut

