

Approved Resolution in Support of the Green New Deal

Submitted by Todd E. Vachon

WHEREAS, climate change is an urgent crisis confronting people all over the world: extreme weather, rising sea levels, and pollution are wreaking havoc on human health, natural ecosystems, and all life on the planet¹; and

WHEREAS, the climate crisis exacerbates already-existing systemic injustices along racial, regional, social, and economic lines²; and

WHEREAS, the climate crisis highlights growing income inequality and a decline in labor standards in the United States³; and

WHEREAS, the climate crisis has had a disproportionate impact on “frontline communities” (including Indigenous communities, communities of color, migrant communities, deindustrialized communities, the poor, low-income workers, women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with disabilities, and youth⁴); and

WHEREAS, the Society for the Study of Social Problems has previously resolved to support a “just transition to renewable energy with justice for workers and frontline communities⁵,” and

WHEREAS, the Green New Deal Resolution, sponsored by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Ed Markey, was introduced, February 6, 2019 in the U.S. Congress; and

WHEREAS, the Green New Deal Resolution is an extremely ambitious framework for a series of projects and policies to achieve the following goals, among others, by the year 2030: net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through a fair and just transition for frontline communities and workers; millions of good, high-wage jobs and ensure prosperity and economic security for all; investments in U.S. infrastructure, industry, and society to sustainably meet the challenges of the 21st century; clean air and water, climate resiliency, sustainable livelihoods, and access to nature for all for generations to come; and justice and equity for frontline communities by repairing current and historic harms; and

WHEREAS, the Green New Deal resolution calls for “transparent and inclusive consultation, collaboration, and partnership with frontline and vulnerable communities, labor unions, worker cooperatives, civil society groups, academia, and businesses⁶,”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Society for the Study of Social Problems wholeheartedly endorses the Green New Deal resolution and urges its swift adoption by the U.S. Congress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Society for the Study of Social Problems reaffirms its commitment to a 100% clean and renewable energy economy, including: A massive investment in energy efficient infrastructure to ensure clean drinking water, affordable and efficient public transportation, energy efficient buildings and schools; Good jobs and union-friendly policies in the green energy economy; and Investment in good jobs in communities historically dependent on the fossil fuel industry so that no workers and no communities are left behind.

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Society for the Study of Social Problems will communicate support for the Green New Deal Resolution to leaders of both parties in the House of Representatives and the Senate, all members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, the House Committee of Natural Resources, the Director of the Environmental Protection Agency, the President of the United States of America, and all candidates for the office of President of the United States of America⁷.

¹ U.S. Global Change Research Program. 2017. *Climate Change Impacts in the United States*. Fourth National Climate Assessment. Retrieved January 12, 2018 (www.globalchange.gov).

² Worland, Justin. 2019. “Climate Change Has Already Increased Global Inequality. It Will Only Get Worse.” *Time*, April 22: <http://time.com/5575523/climate-change-inequality/>

³ Irwin, Neil. 2019. “Climate Change’s Giant Impact on the Economy: 4 Key Issues.” *New York Times*, January 17: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/17/upshot/how-to-think-about-the-costs-of-climate-change.html>

⁴ Tucker, Josephine, et al. 2015. “Social Vulnerability in Three High-poverty Climate Change Hot Spots: What does the Climate Change Literature Tell Us?” *Regional Environmental Change* 15:783-800.

⁵ SSSP. 2018. RESOLUTION 1: Just Transition to Renewable Energy with Justice for Workers and Frontline Communities. https://www.sssp1.org/file/2018AM/2018_Approved_Resolutions.pdf

⁶ 116th Congress. 2019. H.R. 109: Recognizing the Duty of the Federal Government to Create a Green New Deal <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/109/text>

⁷ All contact information for these offices provided in attached document.