

## HJ001 Declaration of a Climate Emergency and Implementation of a Climate Mobilization Effort Support

In the U.S., right now, Mississippi and Tennessee are experiencing prolonged flooding after receiving 400% of normal rainfall. The Arctic shattered record high temperatures, reaching 70 degrees Fahrenheit last week. This is a Climate Emergency.

This isn't political. This is a moral issue.

Climate Emergency by the numbers:

- The number of US declarations of Climate Emergency: **87, within 23 states.** I am proud to say the Howard County Columbia Association unanimously passed a Climate Emergency Resolution.
- The number of Americans who believe that climate change is the most important issue facing society: **56%.**
- Percent of Americans experiencing "eco-anxiety": **68%.**
- Number of young conservative American voters who say that climate change is an important issues: **77%.**

In declaring a climate emergency, a government admits that global warming exists and that the measures taken up to this point are not enough to limit the changes brought by it. The decision stresses the need for the government and administration to devise measures that try and stop human-caused global warming.

A lovely example of our near future is Australia. An Australian climate scientist, Joelle Gergis, warns that epic bush fires and the hottest temperatures ever recorded on the continent are a wakeup call that climate change is occurring even more rapidly than models predicted. She stated, "This is the type of summer you might not have expected until the middle of the century. This is redefining what it means to actually be living through a period of rapid climate change." The former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, a political conservative, stated, "It is dangerous and idiotic not to be taking the strongest action to reduce your greenhouse gas emissions."

In the US, places like San Diego and Miami are considering what they are calling "managed retreats." Literally moving cities. The cost is unimaginable. Declaring a Climate Emergency is an ounce of prevention that is worth trillions of dollars of cure. But the saddest comment I heard was from a constituent. As we discussed the Climate Emergency Resolution, she simply said, "It's too late".

It will be too late only if we do not act right now with the urgency of wartime action. You have the power to not only act and show leadership, but also to give a necessary sense of hope. If you choose not to support this critical legislation, you do not need to explain your reasons to me. But I ask you what would you say when you look into the eyes of our grandchildren. I am asking for a favorable report on HJ001 Declaration of a Climate Emergency and Implementation of a Climate Mobilization Effort

Pat Hersey  
9462 Farewell Rd  
Columbia, MD 21045

Resources:

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate\\_emergency\\_declaration](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_emergency_declaration)

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/australia-fires-climate-change-relationship-60-minutes-2020-02-16/>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/australia-prime-minister-malcolm-turnbull-party-colleagues-conduct-over-climate-change-idiotic-60-minutes-2020-02-16/>

<https://www.climateemergencysummit.org/?emci=a74459f2-4253-ea11-a94c-00155d039e74&emdi=8653f728-4e53-ea11-a94c-00155d039e74&ceid=21181>