

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 9

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By: **Senator Pugh**

Introduced and read first time: February 16, 2009

Assigned to: Rules

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

3 FOR the purpose of urging the United States Congress to act expeditiously to enact
4 comprehensive legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

5 WHEREAS, Greenhouse gas emissions are generally recognized as a major
6 contributor to climate change; and

7 WHEREAS, There are important steps that governments can take to help
8 reduce the harmful effects of greenhouse gas emissions, including steps that many
9 states have already begun to make; and

10 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland has demonstrated leadership in reducing its
11 emission of greenhouse gases, notably by passing legislation to participate in the
12 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, establishing a climate change commission,
13 setting special restrictions on vehicle emissions, and codifying the EmPOWER
14 Maryland program designed to reduce by 15% per capita energy consumption by 2015;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Maryland's 3,100 miles of shoreline along the Chesapeake Bay and
17 Atlantic Ocean make it uniquely vulnerable to the effects of climate change, including
18 loss and inundation of land due to dramatic rises in the sea level and changes in
19 weather patterns; and

20 WHEREAS, The effects of climate change should not be considered in isolation
21 as every state's economic well-being is intricately linked to national and global
22 markets; and

23 WHEREAS, The United States is one of the largest emitters of carbon dioxide
24 in the world, yet has not formulated a national policy to redress these emissions; and

25 WHEREAS, The absence of a coherent and definitive national policy on
26 greenhouse gas emissions is detrimental to the environmental health and political



1 stability of the United States, as well as the general welfare of its citizens; now,
2 therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
4 United States Congress is urged to act expeditiously to enact comprehensive
5 legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
7 Legislative Services to the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Barbara A.
8 Mikulski and Benjamin L. Cardin, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510;
9 and Representatives Frank M. Kratovil, Jr., C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger III, John P.
10 Sarbanes, Donna Edwards, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E.
11 Cummings, and Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., House Office Building, Washington, D.C.
12 20515.