

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

House Resolution No. 626

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE LAVENDER.

1019H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

2 **WHEREAS**, as documented through the use of sound scientific methods and evidence-
3 based practices, the climate in the state of Missouri is changing at an alarming rate; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the average annual temperature in the United States has increased more
5 than two degrees Fahrenheit in the last century, and Missouri is above the national average; and

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7 **WHEREAS**, rising global temperatures have resulted in an atmosphere that holds more
8 water vapor and creates a higher potential for heavy rainfall; and

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10 **WHEREAS**, average annual precipitation in most of the Midwest has increased by five
11 to ten percent over the last half century as a result of rising global temperatures, causing flooding
12 to become more frequent; and

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14 **WHEREAS**, the state of Missouri will see an increase in the number of extremely hot
15 days in the coming decades, which will cause public health issues in urban areas and damage or
16 destroy crops such as corn and rice in rural areas. Already, in 2018, Governor Michael L. Parson
17 issued an executive order declaring a drought alert for certain Missouri counties after the U.S.
18 Drought Monitor indicated that all or portions of forty-seven Missouri counties were in severe
19 or extreme drought and data demonstrated that nearly seventy percent of Missouri was
20 experiencing some level of drought; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, farmers in the state of Missouri have witnessed firsthand the impacts of
23 climate change, such as hay shortages, and have used controlled grazing and other methods to
24 work to combat the consequences of climate change; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, climate change in the state of Missouri is severe, as demonstrated by recent
27 significant drought and flooding events and record high and low temperatures; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, Missouri has remained highly dependent on coal for its electrical energy
30 sources, while the price of solar energy decreases and renewable energy is becoming the most
31 affordable option; and

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33 **WHEREAS**, the state of Missouri should reduce greenhouse gas emissions by fifty
34 percent and work toward fifty percent renewable energy by the year 2030; and

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36 **WHEREAS**, the state of Missouri should consider incentives for technological
37 innovations of products and processes that will move the state toward a healthier climate; and

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39 **WHEREAS**, because climate change has negative effects on the environment, economic
40 development, job creation, and quality of life, the state of Missouri should seek input on the issue
41 from numerous stakeholders in Missouri including, but not limited to, state and local officials,
42 residents of Missouri, the state climatologist, and organizations representing the interests of
43 agriculture, economic development, conservation, natural resources, and health and senior
44 services; and

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46 **WHEREAS**, the general assembly of the state of Missouri has a continuing obligation
47 to provide future generations with a safe and healthy climate:

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49 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the members of the Missouri House
50 of Representatives, One Hundredth General Assembly, First Regular Session, hereby:

51 (1) State our commitment to find solutions to our problems that are environmentally
52 friendly and help to restore the earth's natural systems so that future generations can enjoy a safe
53 and healthy climate;

54 (2) Urge the members of the Missouri House of Representatives to understand the
55 environmental impact of any proposals and support solutions to the state's problems that will
56 restore the earth's natural systems for future generations; and

57 (3) Form a commission with guidance from the state climatologist to provide
58 recommendations on accomplishing the above goals.

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