

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 63

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE PHIFER.

5301H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

2       **WHEREAS**, the overwhelming consensus of climate scientists and the broader  
3 scientific community recognizes that the long-term warming of our planet and increased  
4 occurrences of extreme weather events are a result of anthropogenic climate change; and

5       **WHEREAS**, greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions emitted from the combustion of  
6 fossil fuels such as oil, coal, and natural gas are recognized as the principal cause of  
7 anthropogenic climate change; and

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9       **WHEREAS**, the federal government of the United States of America has recognized  
10 the importance of this issue through policy and legislation including, but not limited to:

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12       (1) Joining as a signatory to the landmark United Nations Paris Climate Accords,  
13 committing the United States to reducing GHG emissions in accordance with international  
14 law; and

15       (2) The Obama-Biden Administration's "Clean Power Plan", which had a stated goal  
16 to gradually reduce reliance on coal for energy production and transition to renewable sources  
17 such as wind and solar; and

18       (3) The Biden-Harris Administration's recent approval of GHG emissions disclosure  
19 as part of environmental review for all relevant federal projects and policy; and

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21       **WHEREAS**, the citizens of the State of Missouri recognized the importance of  
22 addressing climate change by voting in favor of renewable energy and electricity by a  
23 supermajority in the 2008 Proposition C Referendum; and

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25       **WHEREAS**, the State of Missouri has experienced a recent surge in extreme weather  
26 events cited by scientific experts as symptoms of larger trends related to climate change  
27 including, but not limited to:

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29 (1) Increased occurrences of flooding events, such as that of the Des Peres River in  
30 St. Louis County and City in July 2022, responsible for millions of dollars of damage,  
31 displacing hundreds from their homes;

32 (2) A record number of days with an unhealthy concentration of ground-level ozone  
33 in the air during the summer of 2023, exceeding the combined ground-level ozone quantity of  
34 both 2020 and 2021;

35 (3) Increased temperatures that expand the range of habitable environments for  
36 disease vectors such as mosquitoes and ticks, bringing the Zika virus and Lyme disease closer  
37 to densely populated areas and the majority of Missouri's population;

38 (4) An expected increase by a factor of five within the next twenty-five years in the  
39 number of days per year with temperatures in excess of 95°F, quintupling the number of  
40 extremely hot days that Missourians experience by 2050;

41 (5) Hot weather is documented to have deleterious effects on human health,  
42 exacerbating preexisting health conditions in vulnerable populations such as the elderly; and

43 (6) Hot weather has similar damaging effects on plant and animal life, contributing to  
44 a decrease in the agricultural output that sustains thousands of Missouri families; and

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46 **WHEREAS**, the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 ("IRA"), passed by the 117th  
47 Congress of the United States of America and signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden,  
48 will raise over seven hundred billion dollars in revenue, of which three hundred sixty-nine  
49 billion dollars will be used for investments into the nation's energy security and climate  
50 change; and

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52 **WHEREAS**, the IRA authorized billions of dollars in funding, rebate, and tax  
53 incentive programs for both investor-owned and cooperative utilities to upgrade existing  
54 electric infrastructure, construct new facilities, and extend job training and apprenticeship  
55 programs in the clean energy sector; and

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57 **WHEREAS**, of this funding, twenty-seven billion dollars was assigned to the  
58 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to be administered by the Environmental Protection  
59 Agency, organized into multiple distinct grant competitions between state, local, and  
60 municipal governments, nonprofit organizations, green and energy infrastructure banks, and  
61 coalitions between said entities, which will compete for the following grant programs:

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63 (1) Solar for All, a seven billion dollar grant competition for sixty awards between all  
64 fifty states, tribal nations and governments, and U.S. Overseas Territories, with preference for

65 geographic and demographic diversity and cohesiveness, to install and operate solar energy  
66 projects in low-income communities;

67 (2) The National Clean Investment Fund, a fourteen-billion-dollar fund used to  
68 provide green financing institutions with available capital to distribute to local clean energy  
69 projects and plans; and

70 (3) The Clean Communities Investment Accelerator, a six-billion-dollar fund used to  
71 distribute funding to eligible nonprofit organizations capable of distributing funding to locally  
72 based and small-amount lenders and financing institutions to create equitable capital  
73 availability for people in all communities interested in constructing clean energy projects; and  
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75 **WHEREAS**, additional funding is available to the aforementioned entities through  
76 additional grant programs administered by other agencies and programs outside of the  
77 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, such as:

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79 (1) EPA Environmental Justice Block Grants, small grants drawn from a three-  
80 billion-dollar fund dedicated to mitigating environmental harms in disadvantaged  
81 communities, administered by a community-based nonprofit or collaboration between  
82 subnational governments and nonprofit organizations;

83 (2) EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants, grants for air quality and pollution  
84 regulation agencies to implement projects or measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions  
85 and other air pollutants;

86 (3) The EPA Clean Ports Program, a three-billion-dollar pool to fund zero-emission  
87 port equipment and technology to help ports develop climate action plans to reduce air  
88 pollutants, administered by local port authorities and/or the government liable for the  
89 operation of ports of eligibility;

90 (4) The EPA Clean School Bus Program, a five-billion-dollar fund to replace existing  
91 school buses with zero-emission and low-emission models for public school districts; and

92 (5) The HUD Green & Resilient Retrofit Program, a fund to improve energy or water  
93 efficiency, indoor air quality, sustainability, or climate resilience; implement low-emission  
94 technologies, materials, or processes, including zero-emission electricity generation; energy  
95 storage; and building electrification in eligible privately owned and federally subsidized  
96 affordable housing; and

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98 **WHEREAS**, the Inflation Reduction Act and the administrative agencies tasked with  
99 distributing its citizen- and government-oriented programs, along with the Environmental  
100 Protection Agency and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, have indicated  
101 preference for geographic and demographic diversity and cohesiveness among grantees; and

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103           **WHEREAS**, the Inflation Reduction Act also extended both Investment Tax Credits  
104 ("ITC") and Production Tax Credits ("PTC"), tax rebates that substantially incentivize and  
105 reduce costs for construction, maintenance, and operation of clean energy projects, making  
106 clean energy cheaper and more accessible than it has ever been before, including higher  
107 profitability than coal and oil power plants:

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109           **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of  
110 Representatives of the One Hundred Second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the  
111 Senate concurring therein, hereby encourage the State of Missouri, and all governmental and  
112 nongovernmental entities subject to its jurisdiction, all eligible individuals, and nonprofit  
113 organizations to pursue funding available within the Inflation Reduction Act; and

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115           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that cooperation among all Missouri grant  
116 applicants is essential to bring the needed investment in vocational training, jobs,  
117 infrastructure, energy resilience, disaster adaptation, and sustainability that our state  
118 deserves; and

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120           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Department of Natural Resources is urged  
121 to require all departments and entities subject to its authority to take full advantage of  
122 available funding to improve the quality and health of Missouri's natural environment, which  
123 its citizens desire to protect and preserve, in addition to relevant air pollution measures  
124 recognized to have a positive effect on human health; and

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126           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Public Service Commission of the State of  
127 Missouri is urged to emphasize the importance of a just transition to renewable energy and  
128 that all investor-owned and cooperative utilities in the state should be aware of available  
129 funding to build climate resilient infrastructure without increasing rates for ratepayers; and

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131           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that investor-owned and cooperative utilities across  
132 the State of Missouri currently have the opportunity to upgrade the infrastructure and power  
133 generation facilities they are required by law to maintain with available grant funding and to  
134 increase compliance with the Missouri Public Service Commission's requirement that utilities  
135 operating within the state consider their own climate strategies within their triennial  
136 Integrated Resource Plan updates; and

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138           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the citizens of the State of Missouri are urged to  
139 utilize funding available in the Inflation Reduction Act to install small-scale renewable  
140 energy projects on their property and use federal rebates to install energy efficiency and  
141 electrification upgrades at reduced cost; and

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143           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the citizens of the State of Missouri recognize  
144 the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to justly transition  
145 our state away from its unsustainable reliance on coal towards renewable energy sources that  
146 do not adversely affect the health of its citizens and that the moneys available to the State of  
147 Missouri, its corporations, utilities, utility ratepayers, county governments, city and municipal  
148 governments, and nonprofit organizations will disappear and be awarded to other regions of  
149 the United States unless Missourians step forward to apply for aforementioned grant funding;  
150 and

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152           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of  
153 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for each  
154 member of Missouri's Congressional delegation.

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