

Resolution on Climate Change, Clean Energy, and Climate Justice

Whereas, the University of Nebraska study “Understanding and Assessing Climate Change: Implications for Nebraska” published in 2017 highlights the human-caused and accelerating changes to the natural climate cycle, as well as impacts to water resources, energy supply and use, agriculture, human health, and other sectors across Nebraska,

Whereas, the Quadrennial Defense Review 2014 from the United States Department of Defense identifies climate change as a significant challenge for the United States and the world at large,

Whereas, the youth climate organization Fridays For Future states in the Lausanne Climate Declaration of August, 2019, “We are fighting for our future and our lives because they are directly threatened by the climate crisis and the ecological breakdown,”

Whereas, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has declared, “Inaction is not an option. We call on policymakers to seize on an approach that rises to the challenge of climate change,”

Whereas, Leaders around the world and in the United States have worked for decades on the topic of climate justice. The products of their efforts include:

- Establishing the 17 Principles of Environmental Justice,
- Affirming the Rights of Nature and Mother Earth,
- Acknowledging that particular communities and peoples have been disproportionately affected by fossil fuel projects in the past, and that some more than others may be directly impacted during our transition to clean energy,
- Bringing into focus that those who are least responsible for climate change often suffer its gravest consequences.

Therefore, Be It Resolved: The Nebraska Democratic Party recognizes that climate change is occurring, it is caused mainly by human activity, the consequences will be severe and disproportionately felt by frontline communities, and that we can and must take direct action to reduce the causes and adapt to the consequences.

The Nebraska Democratic Party affirms that climate justice must be at the center of our collective actions to address both the causes and the impacts of climate change, and that we will work to enact public policies based on mutual respect and justice for all peoples, free from any form of discrimination or bias.

The Nebraska Democratic Party supports eliminating tax breaks and subsidies for fossil fuels, and will fight to defend and extend tax incentives for energy efficiency and clean energy.

Submitted by: Stephanie Matejka, LD 46 and Convention Committee Chair