

SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the scientific consensus is clear that human activities are primarily responsible for accelerating global climate change, and that the climate crisis represents one of the greatest threats to global civilization; and

WHEREAS, Chicago is already experiencing the effects of the climate crisis, including hotter summers, warmer winters, increased frequency of severe storms, and poorer air quality linked with wildfire smoke; and

WHEREAS, our entire community is already being impacted by the health and safety risks of fossil fuel expansion, particularly those who also face socioeconomic and health inequities, including low-income families, those experiencing homelessness, Black and Brown and Indigenous people, youth, seniors, those experiencing mental and physical disabilities, and people with health conditions; and

WHEREAS, our youth and future generations have the most to lose from a lack of immediate action to stop fossil fuel expansion as they face major and lifelong health, ecological, social, and economic impacts from prolonged and cumulative effects of climate change, including food and water shortages, infectious diseases, and natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported in 2018 that we must achieve net zero in greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) by mid-century to have a reasonable chance of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and its 2022 Sixth Amendment Report confirms with high confidence that the rise in climate extremes has already led to some irreversible damage, pushing natural and human systems beyond their adaptive capacity; and

WHEREAS, the Paris Climate Agreement is silent on coal, oil and gas, an omission with respect to the supply and production of fossil fuels—the largest source of greenhouse gases—that needs to be collectively addressed by other means; and

WHEREAS, global movements and the fossil fuel industry are currently planning to produce more than double the amount of coal, oil and gas by 2030 than can be burned if the world is to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and avert catastrophic climate disruption; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago passed a Climate Emergency Resolution in 2020, recognizing the pressing threat of climate change and expressing the City's intent to pursue equity-centered climate action in response; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois General Assembly passed the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act in 2021, committing Illinois to phasing out carbon emissions from the energy and transportation sectors and creating equitable pathways to employment; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the City of Chicago published its Climate Action Plan, establishing goals and presenting a roadmap to create a more resilient, sustainable, and healthy future for Chicago in the face of climate change; and

WHEREAS, fossil fuel companies are currently planning new projects that will result in 120% more emissions by 2030, which risk undoing the work that the City of Chicago has completed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure and the expanded reliance on coal, oil, and gas expose communities to adverse human health and safety risks at local and global levels; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago recognizes that it is the urgent responsibility and moral obligation of wealthy fossil fuel producers to lead in putting an end to fossil fuel development and to manage the decline of existing production; and

WHEREAS, the economic opportunities presented by a clean energy transition far outweigh those presented by the fossil fuel economy; and

WHEREAS, our city is committed, as part of our climate emergency response, to a just energy transition and to ambitious investments in green infrastructure and industries that will create jobs and rapidly decarbonize our economy; and

WHEREAS, the people of Chicago have called for climate and environmental justice, with thousands of people protesting for environmental justice since 2019; and

WHEREAS, a new global initiative is underway calling for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty that would end new fossil fuel exploration and expansion, phase out our existing production in line with the global commitment to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and accelerate equitable transition plans; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Chicago passed a Resolution urging the federal government to enter into the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, thereby setting a precedent for utilizing resolutions to urge our federal administration to enter into Treaty talks with the purpose of reducing or eliminating a threat to human life; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago opposes the rollback of climate policy at any level of government, affirms its ongoing commitment to the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and pledges to meet its proportionate greenhouse gas reductions under the Paris Climate Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago is committed to exploring and developing local initiatives that limit fossil fuel infrastructure expansion, investing in community spaces to make them environmentally friendly, and prioritizing clean and sustainable energy to ensure a safe and healthy Chicago; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, members of the Chicago City Council, hereby affirm the City of Chicago's ongoing commitment to the goals of the Paris Climate agreement, endorse the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, urge the federal government to support this initiative by entering into treaty discussions, and commit the City to prioritizing a fair and equitable clean energy transition;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to members of the Illinois delegation of the United States Congress.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M7 Hadden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the "M" and "H" being particularly prominent.

Maria E. Hadden
Alderwoman, 49th Ward