



Monroe County Legislature

TED O'BRIEN
LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 17

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April 22, 2009

To the Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
39 West Main Street
Rochester, New York 14614

Re: Pledging to make Monroe County a "Climate Safe Community"

Honorable Legislators:

April 22, 2009 will mark the 39th year of Earth Day celebrations and community events. In recognition of our continuing efforts to protect our local environment, we recommend that this Honorable Body adopt a resolution to state Monroe County's commitment to the "Climate Smart Community Pledge."

For many years, Monroe County has been on the cutting-edge of several impressive developments and innovations in new forms of clean and renewable energy production and distribution. General Motors, Delphi, and the Rochester Institute of Technology have all made significant strides in hydrogen fuel cell technologies research. In 2003, Rochester was listed as third in the nation for general engineering and fuel-cell research. Investing and retooling the energy industry will help to promote local economic development and job growth, while also encouraging all citizens to consider the environmental advantages of new technologies

By altering daily practices and taking an energy-conscious approach to county business, we can continue to set an example to the community. From utilizing energy efficient products and implementing "turn-off" periods, to retrofitting existing facilities with better conservation techniques, Monroe County can implement energy efficient practices that will not only reduce taxpayer costs, but protect our local environment.

Monroe County must also renew its commitment to the purchase of clean, renewable energy to power County facilities. The use of clean renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar, ocean, geothermal and hydro, has many benefits: minimal environmental impacts,



2009 APR 22 AM 9: 51

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increased income for local producers of such energy sources, and dramatic air quality improvement.

Monroe County often empowers its residents to adopt a mentality of personal responsibility when it comes to initiatives such as recycling and conservation; it is imperative that we also implement those principles in our own daily functions. Therefore, we recommend for this Honorable Body to take the below actions:

The specific legislative actions required are:

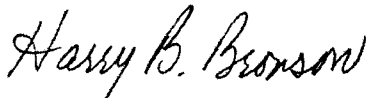
1. Adopt resolution to assert Monroe County's "Climate Smart Community Pledge," as attached.
2. Forward a copy of the signed resolution to the DEC-Region 8 Commissioner.

Adopting this proposed resolution shall have no impact on the revenues and expenditures of current Monroe County Budget.


Respectfully submitted,



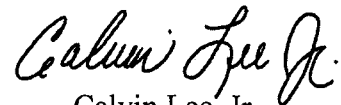
Ted O'Brien
Legislator – District 17



Harry B. Bronson
Democratic Minority Leader



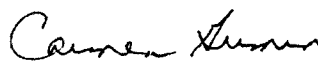
Carrie M. Andrews
Assistant Minority Leader



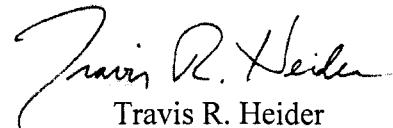
Calvin Lee, Jr.
Assistant Minority Leader



Richard A. Beebe
Legislator – District 6



Carmen F. Gumina
Legislator – District 8



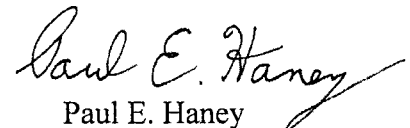
Travis R. Heider
Legislator - District 14



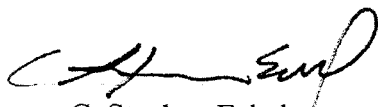
Vincent Esposito
Legislator – District 16



Glenn J. Gamble
Legislator – District 22



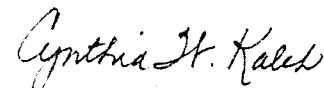
Paul E. Haney
Legislator - District 23



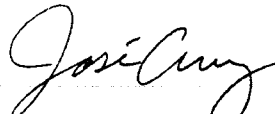
C. Stephen Eckel
Legislator – District 26



Willie Joe Lightfoot
Legislator – District 27



Cynthia W. Kaleb
Legislator – District 28



José A. Cruz
Legislator – District 29

2009 APR 22 AM 9:51

HONORABLE LEGISLATURE
39 WEST MAIN STREET
ANNE ARBOR, MI 48106-1500

By Legislators _____ and _____

Intro. No. _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____ OF 2009

PLEDGING TO MAKE MONROE COUNTY A CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITY

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF MONROE, as follows:

Section 1. **WHEREAS**, the County of Monroe (hereinafter "local government") believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments which is primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change will endanger our infrastructure, economy and livelihoods; harm our farms, orchards, ecological communities, including native fish and wildlife populations; spread invasive species and exotic diseases; reduce drinking water supplies and recreational opportunities; and pose health threats to our citizens; and

WHEREAS, we believe that our response to climate change provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to save money, and to build livable, energy-independent and secure communities, vibrant innovation economies, healthy and safe schools, and resilient infrastructures; and

WHEREAS, we believe the scale of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions required for climate stabilization will require sustained and substantial efforts; and

WHEREAS, we believe that even if emissions were dramatically reduced today, communities would still be required to adapt to the effects of climate change for decades to come, therefore:

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that County of Monroe, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate may:

- 1. Pledge to Combat Climate Change by Becoming a Climate Smart Community.**
- 2. Set Goals, Inventory Emissions, Move to Action:** by empowering the Environment & Public Works Committee to develop and submit to the Monroe County Legislature a "Comprehensive Energy Plan" prior to December 31, 2009.
- 3. Decrease Energy Demand for County Operations:** by adopting a goal of reducing electricity use by 15 percent from projected levels no later than 2015 through A) retrofitting all existing County facilities with improved energy conservation techniques and equipment; B) achieve at least minimum U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards (LEED Silver) for all new construction and major renovations over 5,000 sq./ft of County facilities; C) improve the average fuel efficiency of county fleet vehicles. Discourage vehicle idling and encourage bicycling, carpooling and public transit for employees. Consider reducing the number of vehicles; converting fleet vehicles to sustainable alternative fuels; and using electric vehicles where possible.
- 4. Encourage Renewable Energy for County Operations:** by pledging to purchase energy, produced in New York State, from non-polluting, renewable energy technologies with a goal of no less than 25 percent of all purchased energy by 2015.
- 5. Realize Benefits of Recycling and Other Solid Waste Management Practices:** by A) expanding the County's "reduce, reuse and recycle" program and community outreach and education; B) providing public recycling receptacles in county buildings and outdoor spaces.
- 6. Promote Climate Protection through Community Land Use Planning:** by including provisions to combat climate change; reduce sprawl; preserve and protect open space biodiversity;

2009 APR 22 AM 9: 51

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and encourage tree planting; especially along waterways, to increase shading and to absorb carbon dioxide.

7. Support a Green Innovation Economy: by A) identifying opportunities to incorporate climate protection, sustainability and environmental goods and service industries into economic development plans; B) encouraging workforce development training and school curricula that support the emerging green collar job sector, including renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as climate smart solid waste management practices; C) promoting the procurement climate smart goods and services for county operations.

8. Commit to an Evolving Process: by acknowledging that research and policy on climate protection are constantly improving and evolving; and be willing to consider new ideas and commit to update plans and policies as needed.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

File No. 09-0_____

ADOPTION: Date: _____ Vote: _____

2009 APR 22 AM 9: 51

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