

JULY 2020

THE FLORIDA CLIMATE + ECONOMIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE

**ADDRESSED TO THE PEOPLE OF THE
STATE OF FLORIDA**

ROCK ABOUJAOUDE JR. - HD10, HEATHER HUNTER - SD7,
KATHERINE NORMAN - SD23, STEVEN MEZA - SD33,
ELIJAH MANLEY - HD94, ANSELM WEBER - HD76,
RACHEL BROWN - SD27, LLOYD DABBS - HD52

**WE, THE CANDIDATES OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA,
SUBMIT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA
THIS INITIATIVE**



THE FLORIDA CLIMATE AND ECONOMIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE

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STATE OF FLORIDA

To Our Fellow Floridians,

COVID-19 is presenting itself as a painful, yet pivotal learning experience for the people of Florida. The pandemic exposed massive systemic vulnerabilities and presented a dire warning that our state must either prepare for future crises of equal or larger scale, or risk continuous devastation due to our collective failure to act. Even now, climate change remains the greatest existential threat to the people of Florida and to our nation--not just within the context of our environment, but also to our diverse economy, the equality within our diverse communities, and the health of our citizens. No one is immune. Everyday Floridians now realize that the status quo is no longer acceptable and therefore we must take bold climate action to meet future challenges.

As Floridians, we have a moral obligation to leave a resilient and sustainable world for our children that empowers front-line communities with resources needed to adapt and overcome this climate emergency. And with that obligation, comes an opportunity to revitalize our state economy through a revolution in resilient and sustainable infrastructure; renewable technologies; next-generation research; and a commitment to 100% clean energy and a carbon neutral Florida by 2050.

We are submitting to the people of the State of Florida this "Florida Climate and Economic Defense Initiative" (Florida Climate Initiative), which outlines the framework for a comprehensive action plan to combat climate change that will make Florida the nation's leader in green industries, readies a resilient infrastructure, and creates high-paying jobs in new green technology sectors.

Our plan takes the form of the following three elements:

1. Adopt a resolution that the Florida legislature will meet or exceed national standards for climate action, while recognizing that our state should lead the nation in guaranteed access to jobs in green energy industries to build a stronger and resilient economy.
2. Establish an independent commission focused on development of a roadmap to meet our climate action milestones by 2050 related to comprehensive infrastructure upgrades; incentivized deployment of rapid green technologies; enhanced education and workforce development initiatives; energy system transition, and historic investment in clean energy research and development.
3. 100 town halls in 100 days to listen to solicit feedback, meet with technology experts, climate scientists, and Florida citizens such that we will improve and refine our climate action initiatives for the 2021 legislative session.

We have each promised to work together to introduce this legislation into the Florida House; Senate upon entering office. Only by working together and across the aisle will we meet these historic climate challenges with unmatched resolve to build a resilient tomorrow for the people of Florida.

We very much value your feedback as fellow Floridians and we hope to stay closely engaged with you, our community, and grow as both as candidates and as future legislators.

Let's get to work.

#FCEDI

Committed Fighters for Florida's future:

CANDIDATES FOR CONGRESS

TOM WELLS - CD3
DONNA DEEGAN - CD4
RICHARD THRIPP - CD6

CANDIDATES FOR FL SENATE

KAREN BUTLER - SD1
HEATHER HUNTER - SD7
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LINDA TRIPP - HD55
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SHAWN WILLIAMS - HD78
LAURA NOVOSAD - HD80
ELISA ACKERLY - HD82
ELIJAH MANLEY - HD94
BOB LYNCH - HD116

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Florida Legislation Part #1

Bill #: Assigned by staff

Sponsors: Rock Aboujaoude Jr.

Title: Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal.

Committee: Assigned by Staff

Resolution:

Whereas, the United Nations Environment Program’s Emissions Gap Report of 2019 predicts a major gap between meeting the goal of mitigating temperature increases to 1.5 C and 2.0 C required by the Paris Climate Accords, and

Whereas, this critical gap is, in part, due to lack of international leadership by the United States on investment in, and implementation of, research and development of critical climate technology and adoption of the Paris Climate Accords, and

Whereas, the Federal Government is interested in passing a Green New Deal and the State of Florida should determine where Federal dollars should be best spent, and

Whereas, the State of Florida stands to face the most damage from the effects of Climate Change, and

Whereas, the State of Florida currently possesses industries which, with proper investment in Research and Development, could transform from carbon positive, to carbon negative outputs, and

Whereas, the State of Florida could become a leader in the United States in carbon negative technology,

1. Resolved, that the it is the duty of the Federal Government to establish a Green New Deal
 - a. to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through a fair and just transition for all communities and workers;
 - b. to create millions of good, high-wage jobs and ensure prosperity and economic security for all people of the United States;
 - c. to invest in the infrastructure and industry of the United States to sustainably meet the challenges of the 21st century;
 - d. to secure for all people of the United States for generations to come—
 - (i) clean air and water;
 - (ii) climate and community resiliency;
 - (iii) healthy food;
 - (iv) access to nature; and
 - (v) a sustainable environment; and
 - e. to promote justice and equity by stopping current, preventing future, and repairing historic oppression of indigenous communities, communities of color, migrant communities, deindustrialized communities, depopulated rural communities, the poor, low-income workers, women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with disabilities, and youth (referred to in this resolution as “frontline and vulnerable communities”);

2. the goals described in subparagraphs of paragraph (1) above (referred to in this resolution as the “Green New Deal goals”) should be accomplished through a 10-year national mobilization (referred to in this resolution as the “Green New Deal mobilization”) that will require the following goals and projects—

- a. building resiliency against climate change-related disasters, such as extreme weather, including by leveraging funding and providing investments for community-defined projects and strategies;
- b. repairing and upgrading the infrastructure in the United States, including—
 - (i) by eliminating pollution and greenhouse gas emissions as much as technologically feasible;
 - (ii) by guaranteeing universal access to clean water;
 - (iii) by reducing the risks posed by flooding and other climate impacts; and
 - (iv) by ensuring that any infrastructure bill considered by Congress addresses climate change;
- c. meeting 100 percent of the power demand in the United States through clean, renewable, and zero-emission energy sources, including—
 - (i) by dramatically expanding and upgrading existing renewable power sources; and
 - (ii) by deploying new capacity;
- d. building or upgrading to energy-efficient, distributed, and “smart” power grids, and working to ensure affordable access to electricity;
- e. upgrading all existing buildings in the United States and building new buildings to achieve maximal energy efficiency, water efficiency, safety, affordability, comfort, and durability, including through electrification;
- f. spurring massive growth in clean manufacturing in the United States and removing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from manufacturing and industry as much as is technologically feasible, including by expanding renewable energy manufacturing and investing in existing manufacturing and industry;
- g. working collaboratively with farmers and ranchers in the United States to eliminate pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector as much as is technologically feasible, including—
 - (i) by supporting family farming;
 - (ii) by investing in sustainable farming and land use practices that increase soil health; and
 - (iii) by building a more sustainable food system that ensures universal access to healthy food;
- h. overhauling transportation systems in the United States to eliminate pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector as much as is technologically feasible, including through investment in—
 - (i) zero-emission vehicle infrastructure and manufacturing;
 - (ii) clean, affordable, and accessible public transportation; and
 - (iii) high-speed rail;
- i. mitigating and managing the long-term adverse health, economic, and other effects of pollution and climate change, including by providing funding for community-defined projects and strategies;
- j. removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere and reducing pollution, including by restoring natural ecosystems through proven low-tech solutions that increase soil carbon storage, such as preservation and afforestation;

- k. restoring and protecting threatened, endangered, and fragile ecosystems through locally appropriate and science-based projects that enhance biodiversity and support climate resiliency;
 - l. cleaning up existing hazardous waste and abandoned sites to promote economic development and sustainability;
 - m. identifying other emission and pollution sources and creating solutions to eliminate them; and
 - n. promoting the international exchange of technology, expertise, products, funding, and services, with the aim of making the United States the international leader on climate action, and to help other countries achieve a Green New Deal;
3. a Green New Deal must be developed through transparent and inclusive consultation, collaboration, and partnership with frontline and vulnerable communities, labor unions, worker cooperatives, civil society groups, academia, and businesses; and
4. to achieve the Green New Deal goals and mobilization, a Green New Deal will require the following goals and projects—

- a. providing and leveraging, in a way that ensures that the public receives appropriate ownership stakes and returns on investment, adequate capital (including through community grants, public banks, and other public financing), technical expertise, supporting policies, and other forms of assistance to communities, organizations, Federal, State, and local government agencies, and businesses working on the Green New Deal mobilization;
- b. ensuring that the Federal Government takes into account the complete environmental and social costs and impacts of emissions through—
 - (i) existing laws;
 - (ii) new policies and programs; and
 - (iii) ensuring that frontline and vulnerable communities shall not be adversely affected;
- c. providing resources, training, and high-quality education, including higher education, to all people of the United States, with a focus on frontline and vulnerable communities, so those communities may be full and equal participants in the Green New Deal mobilization;
- d. making public investments in the research and development of new clean and renewable energy technologies and industries;
- e. directing investments to spur economic development, deepen and diversify industry in local and regional economies, and build wealth and community ownership, while prioritizing high-quality job creation and economic, social, and environmental benefits in frontline and vulnerable communities that may otherwise struggle with the transition away from greenhouse gas intensive industries;
- f. ensuring the use of democratic and participatory processes that are inclusive of and led by frontline and vulnerable communities and workers to plan, implement, and administer the Green New Deal mobilization at the local level;
- g. ensuring that the Green New Deal mobilization creates high-quality union jobs that pay prevailing wages, hires local workers, offers training and advancement opportunities, and guarantees wage and benefit parity for workers affected by the transition;
- h. guaranteeing a job with a family-sustaining wage, adequate family and medical leave, paid vacations, and retirement security to all people of the United States;
- i. strengthening and protecting the right of all workers to organize, unionize, and collectively bargain free of coercion, intimidation, and harassment;

- j. strengthening and enforcing labor, workplace health and safety, antidiscrimination, and wage and hour standards across all employers, industries, and sectors;
- k. enacting and enforcing trade rules, procurement standards, and border adjustments with strong labor and environmental protections—
 - (i) to stop the transfer of jobs and pollution overseas; and
 - (ii) to grow domestic manufacturing in the United States;
- l. ensuring that public lands, waters, and oceans are protected and that eminent domain is not abused;
- m. obtaining the free, prior, and informed consent of indigenous people for all decisions that affect indigenous people and their traditional territories, honoring all treaties and agreements with indigenous people, and protecting and enforcing the sovereignty and land rights of indigenous people;
- n. ensuring a commercial environment where every businessperson is free from unfair competition and domination by domestic or international monopolies; and
- o. providing all people of the United States with—
 - (i) high-quality health care;
 - (ii) affordable, safe, and adequate housing;
 - (iii) economic security; and
 - (iv) access to clean water, clean air, healthy and affordable food, and nature.

Summary: Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal.

Florida Legislation Part #2

Bill #: Assigned by staff

Sponsors: Rock Aboujaoude Jr.

Title: An Act Related to Establishing Task Forces for the Implementation of a Florida Green New Deal

Committee: Assigned by Staff

Be it enacted by the Florida Legislature:

Sec. A-1. Carbon Negative Task force established. The Carbon Negative Task Force for a Green New Deal, referred to in this Section as "the carbon negative task force," is established to:

- 1. Identify approaches within the current state infrastructure to transform industries from carbon positive, to carbon negative**
- 2. Identify ecological economics approaches capable of delivering comprehensive and accurate assessments of the sustainability of all products, services, and systems.**
- 3. Identify technologies which could be developed and aid in the transformation of the State to carbon negative, including, but not limited to,**
 - a. Carbon Farming;**
 - b. Generation IV Nuclear;**
 - c. Carbon Fee and Dividend;**
 - d. Electric Vehicles;**
 - e. Solar;**
 - f. Wind;**
 - g. Geothermal; and**
 - h. Hydrokinetic;**

Sec. A-2. Carbon Negative Task Force Membership

The task force consists of 6 members as follows:

- a. The Director of the Florida Climate Institute, who serves as chair; and**
- b. Five members to be appointed by the Chair as follows:**
 - a. One representative of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Agronomy Department;**
 - b. One representative of the Embodied Energy(Emergy) program;**
 - c. One member of the Climate Institute;**
 - d. One member representing the interests of renewable energy producers; and**
 - e. One member who is under 21 years of age representing youth of the State;**

Sec. A-3. Carbon Negative Task Force Consultation

1. The Carbon Negative Task Force shall begin through requesting consultation and advice from the following organizations:

- a. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration(NASA);**
- b. The European Union;**
- c. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;**
- d. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change(IPCC); and**
- e. And any other organizations with past experiences going through rapid transformations, or organizations who have been developing concepts related to this Florida Green New Deal;**

Sec. B-1. Resiliency Task force established. The Resiliency Task Force for the Green New Deal, referred to in this Section as “the Resiliency Task Force” is established to assist counties to:

- 1. Identify critical areas of concern along coastlines susceptible to sea level rise and storm surge;**
- 2. Provide a report on the areas of the state which shall face dramatic vulnerability to flooding within the life cycle of existing or proposed infrastructure and provide recommendations to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection on advised development policies and construction practices;**
- 3. Provide recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature on how to provide jobs through the creation green jobs; and**
- 4. Provide recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature on the amount of federal dollars that ought to be spent in population migration, inland city planning, and other factors related to climate migration;**
- 5. Provide recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature on the financial cost of retaining current human structures for the following:**
 - a. 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, and 60 feet sea level rise;**
 - b. Against climate change-related disasters such as:**
 - 1. Hurricanes**
 - 2. Flooding**
 - 3. Sea Level Rise**
 - 4. Tornadoes**
 - 5. Extreme heat**
 - 6. Red Tide**

7. Disease

c. Provide a report to the Governor and the Legislature on the cost to secure for Floridians of future generations given no population migration:

- i. Guaranteed clean air and potable water**
- ii. Guaranteed access to nutrition**

Sec. B-2. Resiliency Task Force Membership

The task force consists of 9 members as follows:

1. The Director of the Florida Institute for Build Environment Resilience,, or its successor agency, who serves as chair; and

2. Nine members appointed by the Chair as follows:

b. One representative of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences(IFAS);

c. One member of the Climate Institute;

d. One member representing the interests of renewable energy producers;

e. One member who is under 21 years of age representing youth of the State;

f. Two members representing the interests of Labor;

g. Three members representing the business community, including one from a business located in a coastal county and one from a business located in an inland county.

Sec. C-1. Adaptation Task force established. The Adaptation Task Force for the Green New Deal, referred to in this Section as “the Adaptation Task Force” is established to:

1. Provide recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature on how to effectively create a just and fair transition for all communities and workers in the State of Florida through the carbon negative process;

2. Provide a report to the Governor and Legislature, in consultation with the Resiliency Task Force, on how to responsibly and fiscally relocate populations whose residences are located:

a. At 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, and 60 feet above sea level; and

b. On areas susceptible to flooding at elevations up to 80 feet above sea level;

3. Provide a report to the Governor and the Legislature on inland counties which are above 60 feet of sea level which can sustainably house 100,000 or more people;

4. Provide a report to the Governor and Legislature on ‘Repurposing’ the following industries to climate efficient industries and developing climate education programs for each:

a. Tourism;

b. Agriculture and Nutrition;

- c. **Attraction Parks;**
 - d. **State Parks;**
 - e. **Recreational Beach Facilities;**
 - f. **Transportation; and**
 - g. **Infrastructure;**
5. **Provide a report to the Governor and the Legislature on developing a program for guaranteed job offers for any Floridian that wishes to be employed in the transition process(both adaptation and carbon negative aspects), referred to in this section as the “Universal Green Employment”.**
6. **Provide a report to the Governor and the Legislature on the potential effects of climate change on the indigenous communities of the Seminole Indians and Miccosukee Tribes;**
7. **Provide a report to the Governor and the Legislature on the potential effects of climate change on minority groups in the State of Florida;**

Sec. C-2. Adaptation Task Force Membership

The task force consists of 6 members as follows:

- c. **The Director of the International Center for Adaptation Planning and Design shall serve as chair; and**
- d. **Seven members appointed by the Chair as follows:**
 - b. **One representative of the Food and Resource Economics Department of the University of Florida;**
 - c. **One member of the Climate Institute;**
 - d. **One member representing the interests of renewable energy producers;**
 - e. **One member who is under 21 years of age representing youth of the State;**
 - f. **One representative of the Seminole Indian Tribe;**
 - g. **One representative of the Miccosukee Indian Tribe; and**
 - h. **One representative of a minority owned business in a coastal county;**