

RESOLUTIONS OF THE CITY OF HELENA, MONTANA

RESOLUTION NO. 20347

A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING HELENA'S CONTINUED EFFORTS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS, the City of Helena recognizes global climate change is occurring, humans are contributing to it and reductions in greenhouse gases are necessary to avert the negative consequences of a changing climate; and

WHEREAS, Helena signed the United States Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, recognizing that climate change poses an urgent threat to the environmental and economic health of Helena and communities throughout United States; and

WHEREAS, Helena is already being negatively impacted by warmer weather from climate change, including increased risk of catastrophic wild fires and threats to Helena's principal municipal water supply, earlier snowmelt and reduced stream flows; and

WHEREAS, Helena's outdoor tourism industry faces a direct threat from climate change; and

WHEREAS, Montana is projected to lose 11,000 outdoor recreation jobs and \$281 million in labor earnings in recreation and tourism by 2050 as a result of climate change; and

WHEREAS, Helena developed a Climate Change Task Force Action

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Plan, recognizing Helena has an obligation to address climate change and increase the resilience and self-reliance of the Helena community; and

WHEREAS, climate projections indicate not only a warming climate in Helena, but also a smaller snow pack, earlier runoff, decreased water volumes within the Helena watershed, lower mid-summer flows, and greater frequency and intensity of wildfires; and

WHEREAS, extreme summer temperatures have increased over the last two decades, with the average number of 90-degree days doubling; and

WHEREAS, Helena's 2011 Growth Policy requires the City to take action to decrease its impacts on the climate; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has rolled back critically important climate policies, including the Clean Power Plan and vehicle fuel efficiency standards; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has failed in its obligation to live up to the promises enshrined in the Paris Climate Agreement; and

WHEREAS, labor leaders, fossil fuel companies, and some of the nation's largest businesses, all recommended staying in the Paris Climate Agreement; and

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WHEREAS, these irresponsible actions will exacerbate the threat of devastating climate risks today, prove harmful to Helena's environment and economy tomorrow, and put in jeopardy the health, safety and well-being of generations to come; and

WHEREAS, Montana Governor Steve Bullock called the decision to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement "short-sighted and dangerous."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HELENA, MONTANA:

Section 1. City of Helena Supports the Paris Climate Agreement and will join the Mayors National Climate Change Action Agenda to adopt, honor and uphold the Paris Climate Agreement Goals.

Section 2. City of Helena will continue to support action to meet the Paris Agreement.

Section 3. City of Helena supports the world effort to hold warming to well below 2°C and to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy that will benefit Helena's security, prosperity, and health.

Section 4. As recommended by the Helena Climate Change Task Force IMP-5, the City shall prepare an annual report, to be

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presented prior to or during the budget process, to document specific activities implemented by the City, track greenhouse gasses, energy usage and other resources such as water, and recommend future sustainability measures for the City of Helena.

Section 5. As recommended by the Helena Climate Change Task Force IMP-2, the City will encourage citizen conservation oversight by establishing a Citizen Conservation Board in order to support, recommend, report on, and monitor, sustainability measures undertaken by the City of Helena.

**PASSED AND EFFECTIVE BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HELENA,
MONTANA, THIS 26th DAY OF JUNE 2017.**

 /S/ JAMES E. SMITH
MAYOR

ATTEST:

 /S/ DEBBIE HAVENS
CLERK OF THE COMMISSION