

1 [Adopting the U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration]

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3 **Resolution adopting the U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration.**

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5 WHEREAS, There is a consensus among the world's leading scientists that global  
6 warming caused by human emission of greenhouse gases is among the most significant  
7 problems facing the world today; and,

8 WHEREAS, Documented impacts of global warming include but are not limited to  
9 increased occurrences of extreme weather events (i.e. droughts and floods), adverse impacts  
10 on plants and wildlife habitats, threats to global food and water supplies -- all of which have  
11 an economic impact on communities and their local governments; and,

12 WHEREAS, Leading scientists have projected that stabilization of climate change in  
13 time to minimize such impacts will require a reduction of global warming emissions to 80  
14 percent below current levels by the year 2050; and,

15 WHEREAS, Currently the United States is responsible for producing approximately 25  
16 percent of the world's global warming pollutants; and,

17 WHEREAS, Many leading U.S. companies that have adopted greenhouse gas  
18 reduction programs to demonstrate corporate and operational responsibility have also publicly  
19 expressed preference for the federal government to adopt precise and mandatory emissions  
20 targets and timetables as a means by which to provide a uniform and predictable regulatory  
21 environment to encourage and enable necessary and long-term business investments; and,

22 WHEREAS, State regional and local governments throughout the United States are  
23 adopting emissions reduction targets and programs and that this effort is bipartisan, coming  
24 from Republican and Democratic leaderships; and,

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1           WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed the U.S. Mayors Climate  
2 Protection Agreement, which commits cities to reduction of global warming emissions to 7  
3 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, and calls for a federal limit on emissions; and,

4           WHEREAS, The State of California has mandated statewide reduction of greenhouse  
5 gas emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050; and,

6           WHEREAS, More than 100 county leaders signed a letter written by Dane County,  
7 Wisconsin, that was sent to the President in March 2006 calling for increased energy  
8 investment and development of jobs focused on clean energy technologies; and,

9           WHEREAS, Counties have a unique role to play in reducing greenhouse gas  
10 emissions and preparing for the impacts of climate change through their regional jurisdiction  
11 over policy areas such as air quality, land use planning, transportation, zoning, forest  
12 preservation, water conservation, and wastewater and solid waste management; and,

13           WHEREAS, The economic arguments for implementing climate solutions are  
14 compelling, from the near-term economic gains of energy efficiency to the long-term climate  
15 stabilization that can prevent irreparable harm from catastrophic climate change impacts; and,

16           WHEREAS, Many counties throughout the nation, both large and small, are reducing  
17 global warming pollutants through programs that provide economic and quality of life benefits  
18 such as reducing energy bills, preserving green space, implementing better land use policies,  
19 improving air quality, promoting waste-to-energy programs, expanding transportation and  
20 work choices to reduce traffic congestion, and fostering more economic development and job  
21 creation through energy conservation and new technologies; now, therefore, be it

22           RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco supports the U.S. Cool  
23 Climate Stabilization Declaration; and, be it

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1           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco joins other Cool  
2 Counties to take immediate steps to help the federal, state, and our local government to  
3 achieve the 2050 climate stabilization goal by making the following commitments:

4           1) Create an inventory of our county government (operational) greenhouse gas  
5 (“GHG”) emissions and implement policies, programs and operations to achieve  
6 significant, measurable and sustainable reduction of those operational GHG emissions to  
7 help contribute to the regional reduction targets as identified in paragraph; and,

8           2) Work closely with local, state, and federal governments and other leaders to  
9 reduce county geographical GHG emissions to 80 percent below current levels by 2050,  
10 by developing a GHG emission inventory and regional plan that establishes short-term,  
11 mid-term and long-term GHG reduction targets with recommended goals to stop  
12 increasing emissions by 2020 and to achieve a 10 percent reduction every five years  
13 thereafter through to 2050 ;and,

14           3) Urge Congress and the Administration to enact a multi-sector national program  
15 of requirements, market-based limits, and incentives for reducing GHG emissions to 80  
16 percent below current levels by 2050 and urge the Administration to strengthen standards  
17 by enacting legislation such as a Corporate Average Fuel Economy (“CAFE”) standard  
18 that achieves at least 35 miles per gallon (mpg) within 10 years for cars and light trucks.