

1 [Urging Divestment by Insurance Companies From Coal and Tar Sands Industries]

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3 **Resolution urging insurance industry companies to divest from coal and tar sands**
4 **industries; and to end the underwriting of activities in furtherance of the extraction or**
5 **use of coal and tar sands.**

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7 WHEREAS, The burning of coal is responsible for nearly one-third of all carbon
8 emissions in the United States, contributing to a staggering health crisis which experts
9 estimate leads to over 13,000 premature deaths, 200,000 asthma attacks, and more than
10 \$100 Billion in health care costs each year in the United States alone; and

11 WHEREAS, Environmental advocates have focused on the use of tar sands oil as a
12 particularly grave threat due to the harm caused by its water-intensive, destructive extraction
13 and refinement processes and the various risks and harms associated with its transport; and

14 WHEREAS, San Francisco is part of a global coalition of cities, states, national
15 governments, responsible public institutions, and private corporate entities advancing policies
16 which acknowledge the importance of protecting our planet for the sake of ensuring the well-
17 being of future generations; and

18 WHEREAS, San Francisco is a member of the Bay Area Air Quality Management
19 District (BAAQMD), which oversees fossil fuel facilities in all nine Bay Area counties, many of
20 which are underwritten by the insurance industry; and

21 WHEREAS, On May 2, 2018, the City of Paris approved a resolution calling for insurers
22 to cease any support of the coal industry, heralding a new front in the ongoing movement for
23 divestment from fossil fuels, coal and tar sands; and

24 WHEREAS, The coal and tar sands industries contribute to the acceleration of climate
25 change and insurance companies are massive investors in both industries with the 40 largest

1 United States insurers holding combined investments of over \$450 billion in the coal, oil, gas,
2 and electric utilities sectors; and

3 WHEREAS, Global climate change has contributed to escalating catastrophes in
4 California, with an astonishing eight of the 20 most destructive fires in California history
5 occurring in just the past five years, including the massive 2017 wildfires which resulted in the
6 burning of 1.2 million acres of land, the destruction of 10,800 structures, insured losses of
7 more than \$11 Billion, and at least 46 deaths; and

8 WHEREAS, United States-based insurers such as AIG, Berkshire Hathaway and
9 Liberty Mutual are among the leading insurers of climate-destroying coal projects around the
10 planet; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2016, California Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones called on the
12 insurance industry to voluntarily divest from thermal coal companies, citing the leverage that
13 California has as home to the sixth largest insurance market in the world, where insurance
14 companies collect \$259 billion in annual premiums from California residents; and

15 WHEREAS, In the wake of President Trump's decision to withdraw our country from
16 the Paris Climate Agreement, the City and County of San Francisco joined more than 200
17 United States mayors representing more than 54 million Americans in reaffirming their cities'
18 commitments to climate action as part of the Mayor's National Climate Action Agenda; and

19 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco will host the Global Climate Action
20 Summit in September 2018; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco joins our State Insurance
22 Commissioner and the broader divestment movement in calling on the insurance industry to
23 take action against pollution and climate change by ending their investments in coal and tar
24 sands industries; and, be it

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1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco calls on the
2 insurance industry to take action against pollution and climate change by ending their
3 underwriting of coal and tar sands projects and companies; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the City
5 and County of San Francisco to screen potential insurers for investments in and underwriting
6 of companies or projects perpetuating the extraction and use of coal and tar, and to end any
7 formal relationship with insurers who do not take steps towards full divestment from these
8 harmful industries.

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