

Resolution of the Portsmouth Town Council To Pass The Act  
On Climate Bills In The Rhode Island General Assembly

WHEREAS, the Town of Portsmouth places energy efficiency, carbon emissions reduction, and renewable energy choices among its top priorities; and,

WHEREAS, the consensus opinion of the scientific community attributes the decades-long climate change trends to human-driven increases of the "greenhouse effect;"; and,

WHEREAS, current Rhode Island state law, the Resilient Rhode Island Act of 2014, set aspirational goals for reducing our carbon pollution, which increases the greenhouse effect: 45% by 2035 and 80% by 2050, relative to 1990 levels; and,

WHEREAS, more rapid reductions in emissions are needed, in Rhode Island and everywhere, to prevent catastrophic heating of the planet by 2.7°F or more; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 law provides no means of accountability or enforcement if the state fails to meet these goals; and,

WHEREAS, the 2021 Act On Climate bill (S0078 and H5445) fixes these problems with an amendment to the 2014 law. The legislation provides for:

1. Faster emission reductions, consistent with climate science recommendations: 45% cut by 2030; 80% cut by 2040; and 100% cut (net zero emissions) by 2050.
2. Accountability and transparency: emission reduction targets will become legally binding. The state will have to publish plans, metrics, and a dashboard.
3. Attention to job creation and a just transition: the state's plans must include input from vulnerable communities, address public health and environmental inequities, and develop a diverse, well-paid, clean-energy workforce.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Portsmouth calls on the General Assembly to promptly pass these bills, and for the Governor to sign and implement them; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be distributed to Barrington's members of the General Assembly, its leadership, the Governor and Lt Governor of Rhode Island and the Clerks of all municipalities in Rhode Island.