

# Resolution on Environmental and Climate Justice



*Whereas*, the scientific basis for global warming is indisputable and the climate crisis is linked to extreme weather events across the globe, as well as widespread drought conditions, wildfires, and flooding in the United States and internationally; and

*whereas*, greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise as a result of ever-greater amounts of fossil fuels being extracted and burned; and

*whereas*, if present trends continue, the world is facing a catastrophic increase in average global temperature between 3.7 and 6 degrees Celsius; and

*whereas*, more than 8 million deaths worldwide are directly attributable to air pollution, primarily from the burning of fossil fuels and lack of access to clean energy, and vector-borne diseases, such as malaria, dengue, yellow fever, and lyme, will spike as temperatures increase; and

*whereas*, further global warming and climate change will deepen the climate crisis that will magnify the already catastrophic health impacts of fossil fuel pollution, hunger, and malnutrition due to desertification, devastation, and displacement from severe weather events and sea level rise — all leading to immeasurable human suffering and economic devastation; and

*whereas*, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has made it clear that global levels of greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced quickly in order to deal effectively with the climate crisis, and serious resources need to be committed to protecting the health and livelihoods of people impacted by climate change; and

*whereas*, effective action to address the climate crisis is being fiercely resisted by fossil fuel interests that promote the unlimited expansion of fossil fuel extraction and use, including shale gas through fracking, tar sands oil, and deep-water drilling in the Arctic, and cynically fund climate change denial campaigns; and

*whereas*, the amount of carbon contained in known coal, oil, and gas reserves of national oil companies and private corporations is more than five times the level of CO<sub>2</sub> that can be emitted without triggering catastrophic levels of global warming; and

*whereas*, the official policy of the current federal government of the United States is denial of human-caused climate change, promotion of fossil fuel extractivism, elimination of environmental protection and climate mitigation measures, and withdrawal from the international ["Paris"] climate agreement; and

*whereas*, communities are organizing for environmental and climate justice against the extreme energy agenda of corporations and governments locally, nationally, and globally; and

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*whereas*, despite the illusory promises of thousands of jobs created by the extreme fossil fuel agenda, economists have amply documented that spending on renewable clean energy creates many times more jobs as the same spending on fossil fuel production and infrastructure; and

*whereas*, nurses in the United States and around the world recognize that bold action is needed to challenge the political and economic power of the fossil fuel industry to win health and environmental justice in our communities, to mitigate global warming, and avert a full-scale climate crisis; and

*whereas*, CNA/NNOC members have been in the forefront of public advocacy in the form of rallies, marches, and press conferences, and speaking out before legislative bodies to emphasize public health concerns associated with environmental/climate injustice; and

*whereas*, CNA/NNOC members have also participated in Registered Nurse Response Network disaster relief efforts, providing basic medical care services in the United States and around the world in direct response to weather disasters aggravated by the climate crisis and in support of brave resistance efforts.

*Therefore, be it resolved*, that CNA/NNOC, in the spirit of patient advocacy and a commitment to environmental and climate justice, will continue to engage in active solidarity with frontline communities, allied organizations, and the greater social movement to resist fossil fuel interests and specific “extreme energy” projects, such as new pipelines, deep-sea drilling, tar sands extraction, hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”), new construction of export terminals for coal, petroleum coke, and liquefied gas, oil trains, refinery expansions, and urban drilling; and

*be it further resolved*, that CNA/NNOC will continue to provide emergency relief for communities impacted by extreme weather events and environmental injustice, both in the United States and internationally; and

*be it further resolved*, that CNA/NNOC will continue to support policy measures to protect air, food, and water safety and to ensure that public services, including health and emergency services, are adequately resourced in order to deal with climate-related events and impacts; and

*be it further resolved*, that CNA/NNOC will support appropriate taxation of fossil fuel company profits and sales based on true environmental and social costs, and will support divestment from fossil fuels and public investment in clean, renewable energy; and

*be it further resolved*, that CNA/NNOC will actively support a global approach to the crisis by working to bring the United States back into the community of nations seeking to address climate disruption, and sharing in the international trade union and climate justice movements’ commitment to secure a global climate agreement under the auspices of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that includes scientifically-based and enforceable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions; and

*be it further resolved*, that CNA/NNOC will join with unions and allied organizations to promote democratic, public ownership and control of electrical power generation and distribution as essential to energy

transition, sustainable development, and an end to energy poverty worldwide; and

**be it further resolved**, that CNA/NNOC supports a “just transition” for workers in the fossil fuel and carbon-intensive sectors into permanent jobs in sustainable energy, “green” industries, and public service with full labor rights, and will advocate for a “superfund” for workers and communities negatively affected by the necessary transition from fossil fuels; and

**be it further resolved**, that CNA/NNOC will continue to work in our communities, nationally and internationally, to build a powerful movement for environmental and climate justice with the life-and-death urgency that this task requires.

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