(Passed 6-0)
(BAUACH, DIEKHOFF, SABBAGH left mtg before vote)

RESOLUTION 06-05

SUPPORTING THE KYOTO PROTOCOL AND THE REDUCTION OF THE COMMUNITY'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Whereas The atmospheric level of greenhouse gases has hit a record high, with the greatest annual increase in these gases having been recorded just within the last year; and

Whereas Well-documented effects of climate disruption include: average global sea level increases of four to eight inches during the 20th century; a 40 percent decline in Artic sea-ice thickness; nine of the ten hottest years on record occurring in the past decade; profound ecosystem stress that may cause the extinction rate of other animals to accelerate rapidly; carbon dioxide increases that have triggered acidification of the oceans and threaten the base of the oceanic food chain; a projected sea level rise from meltwater that could inundate coastal cities, estuaries, cropland and aquifers; and climate disruption that threatens the agricultural productivity of the world, even as world population increases by approximately 80 million people per year; and

Whereas Experts have identified the evidence of abrupt and rapid change in the geological record and warn that we may be nearing such a punctuated moment, or "tipping point -- a threshold where human contributions to global warming result in positive feedback, such as albedo effects, methane release from melting tundra, or ocean hydrate deposits -- that may vastly accelerate climate change in the near future; and

Whereas Processes that unfold in rapid succession could overwhelm our ability to adapt; and

Whereas The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the international community's most respected assemblage of scientists, has found that human activities are largely responsible for increasing concentrations of warming pollution; and

Whereas The IPCC has made repeated calls for reduction of greenhouse gases and recently called for "very deep cuts" in emissions, stating that the world has "already reached the level of dangerous concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere;" and

Whereas The National Academy of Sciences, the Royal Society, the American Meteorological Society, the American Geophysical Union, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the national science academies of the G8 nations have all echoed the warnings of the IPCC; and

Whereas The United States constitutes less than five percent of the world's population, yet produces nearly a quarter of the world's greenhouse gas emissions; and

Whereas Despite its disproportionate contribution to pollution, the U.S. federal government has refused to ratify the Kyoto Protocol; and

Whereas The Kyoto Protocol is an amendment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and calls for the U.S. to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to seven percent below 1990 levels by 2012; and

Whereas Under bipartisan leadership, 162 nations, nine US States and 192 US cities have adopted the Kyoto Protocol or similar climate protection agreements whereby these governments are reducing global warming pollutants through programs that provide economic and quality of life benefits such as: reduced energy bills, green space preservation, air quality improvements, reduced traffic congestion, improved transportation choices, and economic development and job creation through energy conservation and new energy technologies; and

Whereas Many U.S. companies who have adopted greenhouse gas reduction programs have also expressed a preference for the U.S. to adopt mandatory emissions targets and timetables as a means by which to remain competitive in the international marketplace; and

Whereas We can take many steps on a local level to lessen emissions and to engage technologies that will enhance our economy through energy savings; and

Whereas Taking steps to curb emissions will foster the economic health of our community and prepare us for energy resource limitation in the coming years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

1. The City of Bloomington join other communities in the United States and the world that recognize human induced climate change as a threat to humanity.

2. The Common Council support the Mayor's signing of the United States Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement.

3. That the City of Bloomington develop a Community Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan with guidance from the Environmental Commission, to cut our community's greenhouse gas emissions, with an aim of meeting the reductions stated in the Kyoto Protocol.

4. That the City of Bloomington take a leadership role within the community to increase energy efficiency and atmospheric carbon reduction.

5. That we urge our Congressional Delegation, and our State Government Representatives, to adopt similar measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 19th day of April, 2006.

Chris Sturbaum

CHRIS STURBAUM, President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

Regina Moore

REGINA MOORE, Clerk
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 20th day of April, 2006.

Regina Moore

REGINA MOORE, Clerk
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this 20th day of April, 2006.

MARK KRUZAN, Mayor

SYNOPIS

This resolution documents the effects of human-induced global warming, calls for Bloomington to join other US cities and governments in meeting the greenhouse gas emission reductions outlined in the Kyoto Protocol and encourages the City to take a leadership role within the community to reduce atmospheric carbon emissions and increase efficiency. The resolution also calls upon the Indiana Congressional Delegation and State legislators to adopt provisions to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases.

Note: This resolution was amended with the adoption of Am 1 at the Regular Session on April 19, 2006 to correct the temporal scope of the third Whereas clause.

Signed copies to:
legal (5)
Indiana Congressional Delegation (11)
State legislators (6)
- Pierce - Simpson
- Welch - Bray
- Tincher - Steele

Clerk
file
CA/CA (3)