

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-XXXX

TITLE: Resolution for Green New Deal at UF – Volume II (Transparency and Disclosure)

AUTHOR(S): Senator Meagan Lamey

SPONSORS: Senate President John Brinkman, Senate President Pro-Tempore Saketh Damera, Majority Party Leader Julia Seifer, Minority Party Leader Nathaniel Pelton, Deputy Minority Party Leader Anamika Naidu, Senator Arturo Zárrate, Senator Allan Rivera Jaramillo, Senator Elizabeth Insuasti, Senator Isha Khan, Senator Daniel Permane, Senator Simone Liang, Senator Anghelo Gangano, Senator Michael Lim, Green Caucus Chair and Senator Zoe Richter, Senator Chalisa Budhai, Senator Antonio Hendricks, Senator Evan Rafanan, Senator Charlie Werner, Senator Hunter Monson, Senator Monorath Khinsim, Senator Max Banach, Senator Vivian Phung, Student Recreational Sports Chair and Senator Raj Mia, Senator Sarah Hoffer, Senator Caitlyn Mathews, Senator Ana Alvarez Pride Student Union President Johnathon Chance Stevens, Sunrise Movement Gainesville President Sofia Aviles, Climate Action Gator President Campbell Al-Khafaji, University of Florida College Democrats President Sabrina Briceno, Young Democratic Socialists of America Co-Chair Syd Engstrom, Planned Parenthood Generation Action at the University of Florida President Amelia Packham, United Nations Association Gainesville President Ariana Ramos-Mercado, Students for Sensible Drug Policy President Madeline Comorat, Baking for Wellness Treasurer Oscar Santiago Perez

WHEREAS, the climate crisis is a defining challenge of the twenty-first century. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a report in 2018 urging the necessity to reduce global emissions by 45% by 2030 (from 2010 levels) to prevent the worst consequences of climate change [1]; and,

WHEREAS, as a leader in climate science, the University of Florida has a responsibility to model the types of climate policy that institutions around the world should be adopting; and,

WHEREAS, there exists no publicly available and up-to-date outlet that provides for information on UF’s total emission of greenhouse gasses and other important climate-related metrics; and,

WHEREAS, there exists no publicly available and up-to-date outlet that provides for information on UF’s investments in fossil fuels and related industries from its endowment and investments; and,

WHEREAS, inaccessibility to information regarding UF’s investments and dealings with the fossil fuel industry or its own carbon footprint raises doubts of UF’s commitment to combating the climate crisis; and,

WHEREAS, in the November 2023 Board of Trustees meeting Board Chair Hosseini stated the importance of financial transparency [2]; and,

WHEREAS, in the December 2023 Board of Trustees meeting Taylor Jantz from the office of the Chief Financial Officer introduced the concept of “radical practicality” which is a pyramid foundation for budget and financial transparency [3]; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the lack of transparency regarding UF’s role in the greatest crisis of our time; and

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Senate calls on the University of Florida to immediately provide a means for students, faculty and community members to access accurate and up to date information on UF’s total carbon emissions per year, and

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate calls upon the Chief Financial Officer of the university to provide a full audit of investments in fossil fuels and related industries from UF’s endowment; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Senate calls on the Deans of each college within UF to provide an annual, publicly available audit of total contributions from fossil fuel and related industries for the purpose of funding research; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes greater transparency and disclosure as a guiding pillar of a Green New Deal for the University of Florida which it endorses the implementation of; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate calls upon both Florida legislators and higher education leaders to take action to address the climate crisis in an urgent manner and to adopt a statewide Green New Deal.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, Chair of the Board of Governors Brian Lamb, Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Shawn Hamilton, University President Ben Sasse, Board of Trustees Chair Mori Hosseini, Vice President of Business Affairs Curtis Reynolds, Taylor Jantz from the office of the Chief Financial Officer, Student Body President Olivia Elizabeth Green, Sustainability Committee Chair Andrew Zimmerman, Sustainability Committee Vice Chair Jessica Sheffield, Office of Sustainability Director Matthew Williams, Office of Sustainability Senior Programs Director Liz Storn, and Gators Going Green Agency Head Samantha Simon

Florida State Representative Anna Eskamani endorses this bill. Further, the author and sponsors of this bill recognize Cameron Driggers as a co-author to this resolution.

[1]<https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/>

[2]<https://trustees.ufl.edu/media/trusteesufledu/minutes/FSPPM-Committee-Pre-Meeting-Final-Minutes-13NOV2023.pdf>

[3]<https://trustees.ufl.edu/media/trusteesufledu/minutes/ALL-Draft-Minutes-07DEC2023.pdf>