STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1187

TITLE: Resolution for Green New Deal at UF – Volume V (Call for a Just Transition)

AUTHOR: Senator Meagan Lamey

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, climate change has disproportionate effects on Black communities, Indigenous communities, and People of Color [2]; and,

WHEREAS, historically efforts to combat climate change has excluded the communities most affected [3]; and,

WHEREAS, the New Deal helped displaced Americans in the midst of the Great Depression by creating a more economically fair society for employees. Similarly focusing on putting workers at the forefront of the movement can bring us out of the current climate crisis [4]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida’s Human Resources Department has stated that they promote an environment where all employees can be productive and successful in achieving their professional and career goals, while being treated fairly and respectfully [5]; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the importance of a worker-led transition to greener systems by ensuring that those whose employment is affected by the climate crisis are given the ability to take a major role in building solutions; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the importance to acknowledging all voices especially including People of Color in the just transition to a more sustainable future; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the just transition 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 Florida legislators and higher education institutions to take action to address the climate crisis in an urgent manner.

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, Vice President of Human Resources Melissa Curry, Student Body President Olivia Elizabeth Green, Sustainability Committee Chair Andrew Zimmerman, Sustainability Committee Vice Chair Jessica Sheffield,
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.

[5]https://hr.ufl.edu/manager-resources/employee-relations/

John Brinkman
Senate President
3/1/2024