

# HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 6

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By: **Delegate Hubbard**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2010

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Comprehensive Federal Clean Energy Jobs and Climate Legislation**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting that the United States Congress pass and the  
4 President of the United States sign comprehensive federal clean energy jobs and  
5 climate legislation that meets certain criteria; and generally relating to federal  
6 clean energy jobs and climate legislation.

7 WHEREAS, The United States currently spends approximately 1 billion dollars  
8 each day to import oil and the U. S. Department of Energy estimates that, without  
9 comprehensive federal clean energy jobs and climate legislation, the country's reliance  
10 on foreign oil could cost 8.5 trillion dollars by 2030; and

11 WHEREAS, Under the United States' current energy policy, American wealth is  
12 being transferred to nations that are rich in oil but politically unstable or unfriendly to  
13 the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, Climate change will increase political and social instability in  
15 poorer regions of the world, presenting potential security challenges for the United  
16 States; and

17 WHEREAS, Clean energy jobs are growing 250% faster than the rest of the  
18 economy; and

19 WHEREAS, The U. S. Energy Information Administration projects that  
20 comprehensive federal clean energy jobs and climate legislation would result in up to 2  
21 million new clean energy related jobs in the United States; and

22 WHEREAS, There is significant global competition to develop clean energy  
23 technology and failure to pass comprehensive federal clean energy jobs and climate  
24 legislation could stifle American innovation and weaken the national economy; and



1 WHEREAS, Thousands of businesses have joined together to call for  
2 comprehensive federal clean energy jobs and climate legislation, including members of  
3 the United States Climate Action Group and the Clean Economy Network; and

4 WHEREAS, Over the past two decades, in the absence of comprehensive federal  
5 clean energy jobs and climate legislation, the states have been the true “laboratories of  
6 democracy” by advancing clean energy policies; and

7 WHEREAS, Many states have adopted renewable energy standards and goals  
8 that require a significant percentage of a state’s electricity to be generated from  
9 nonfossil fuel renewable energy sources, including wind, solar, wave, hydropower,  
10 biomass, and biofuels, and these state standards and goals have led to significant job  
11 growth in the clean energy sector of the national economy; and

12 WHEREAS, Maryland has adopted an ambitious State renewable energy  
13 portfolio standard along with many other significant pieces of legislation to address  
14 climate change and reduce the emission of greenhouse gasses in the State, including  
15 the Healthy Air Act of 2006, the Maryland Clean Cars Act of 2007, the Maryland  
16 Strategic Energy Investment Program, and the EmPOWER Maryland Energy  
17 Efficiency Act of 2008; and

18 WHEREAS, The leadership of states on clean energy has resulted in job growth,  
19 reduced reliance on imported energy sources, and new opportunities for economic  
20 development; and

21 WHEREAS, A national statutory framework for clean energy will provide a  
22 predictable regulatory framework that will spur innovation and discovery in the clean  
23 energy sector; and

24 WHEREAS, The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced its  
25 intention to regulate greenhouse gas emissions through administrative rules in the  
26 absence of comprehensive federal clean energy jobs and climate legislation; and

27 WHEREAS, On June 26, 2009, the United States House of Representatives  
28 passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act on a bipartisan vote, and  
29 bipartisan members of the United States Senate are currently considering and  
30 drafting the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act; and

31 WHEREAS, The United States Congress has a historic opportunity to enact  
32 comprehensive federal clean energy jobs and climate legislation that will strengthen  
33 our national security, increase clean energy jobs, reduce pollution, and advance  
34 American innovation; now, therefore, be it

35 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the  
36 General Assembly of Maryland requests that the United States Congress pass, and the  
37 President of the United States, sign comprehensive federal clean energy jobs and  
38 climate legislation to create a unified framework for reducing greenhouse gas  
39 emissions, protect low and moderate income Americans from increased energy costs,

1 invest substantially in energy efficiency, advance nuclear energy research, and  
2 support alternative sources of energy including wind, solar, wave, hydroelectricity,  
3 biofuels, and clean coal technologies; and be it further

4       RESOLVED, That such national legislation should acknowledge the carbon  
5 intensive nature of the current economy of the United States and include emissions  
6 offsets that protect energy consumers; and be it further

7       RESOLVED, That such national legislation should not preempt state legislative  
8 efforts to control carbon emissions and advance innovations in the clean energy sector;  
9 and be it further

10       RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
11 Legislative Services to President Barack Obama, the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania  
12 Ave., Washington, D.C., 20500; Vice President Joseph Biden, President of the United  
13 States Senate, the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C. 20500;  
14 Ms. Nancy Erickson, Secretary of the United States Senate, United States Senate,  
15 Washington, D.C. 20510; the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Barbara  
16 A. Mikulski and Benjamin L. Cardin, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510;  
17 and Representatives Frank M. Kratovil, Jr., C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger III, John P.  
18 Sarbanes, Donna Edwards, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E.  
19 Cummings, and Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., House Office Building, Washington, D.C.  
20 20515.