A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION recognizing that the current global climate crisis demands a massive mobilization to address, halt and reverse its causes and prevent its consequences.

WHEREAS, 2019 was the second hottest year on record according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

WHEREAS, The preceding years, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018, are the four other hottest years to date, and the 20 warmest years on record have occurred within the past 22 years. Additionally, 2010 through 2019 was the hottest decade ever recorded; and

WHEREAS, Global atmospheric concentrations of the primary heat-trapping gas, carbon dioxide, have increased by 40% since pre-industrial times, primarily due to human activity such as the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation; and

WHEREAS, Current climate science and real-world observations of climate change impacts, including ocean warming, ocean acidification, floods, droughts, wildfires and extreme weather, demonstrate that a global rise in temperature is now dangerously affecting human populations and the environment; and

WHEREAS, The 2018 National Climate Assessment reported that climate change has caused and is expected to cause additional, substantial interference with infrastructure, property, industry, recreation, natural resources, agricultural systems, health, safety and the quality of life; and

WHEREAS, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has determined that climate change is already increasing the frequency of extreme weather and other climate-related disasters including drought, wildfire and storms; and

WHEREAS, Climate change is also a significant threat to health, causing temperature-related deaths and illnesses, air quality impacts, extreme weather events, vector-borne diseases, waterborne illnesses, food safety, nutrition and distribution complications, and behavioral and mental health concerns; and
WHEREAS, Climate change holds grave and immediate consequences not just for Kansans but for communities across the world; and
WHEREAS, Communities in rural, urban and suburban areas are all dramatically affected by climate change, although the specific economic, health, social and environmental impacts may vary; and
WHEREAS, Consequences of climate change disproportionately impact already vulnerable communities, such as children, the elderly and individuals with pre-existing disabilities and health conditions; and
WHEREAS, Individuals and families experiencing income inequality and poverty, institutional racism, gender and sexual orientation inequity, poor infrastructure, lack of access to healthcare, housing, clean water and food security, particularly communities of color, indigenous communities and low-income communities, are often closest in proximity to environmental stressors or sources of pollution; and
WHEREAS, These communities experience immense risk due to their proximity to environmental hazards and stressors, waste and other sources of pollution, are often the first exposed to the impacts of climate change, and have the fewest resources to mitigate those impacts or to relocate; and
WHEREAS, A response to the climate crisis requires just, fair and equitable community transition policies and processes that should be available to all communities, and should be rooted in principles of racial equity, self-determination and democracy, as well as in the fundamental human right to clean air and water, healthy food, adequate land, education and shelter; and
WHEREAS, The Department of State and the Department of Defense have identified climate change as a threat to national security, and the Department of Homeland Security views climate change as a top homeland security risk; and
WHEREAS, Climate change exacerbates many of the challenges Kansas and the United States face; and
WHEREAS, In Kansas and across the United States, massive, comprehensive and urgent governmental action is needed to respond to the severe existing and projected economic, social, public health and national security threats posed by the climate crisis; and
WHEREAS, Stabilizing the climate will require a massive scope and scale of action involving unprecedented levels of public awareness, unwavering support and engagement, and focused deliberation that will ensure the development and implementation of effective, just, fair and equitable policies; and
WHEREAS, There is a great opportunity to create jobs in Kansas and across the United States that will address the climate crisis and will redound to a strong and viable economic future; and

WHEREAS, A number of local jurisdictions and governments in the United States and across the world have already declared a climate crisis, while some state and local governments are considering declaring a climate crisis; and

WHEREAS, Individuals in vulnerable communities must be equitably and actively engaged and prioritized in local climate mitigation planning, policy and program; and

WHEREAS, State, local, and tribal governments must be supported in their efforts to address the climate crisis, to develop a fossil fuel-free economy and to make accountable those whose activities have accelerated the climate crisis and who have benefited from delayed action; and

WHEREAS, Reversing the impacts of the climate crisis requires a collaborative response among federal, state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, As a driver of accelerated climate change, Kansas has an obligation to mobilize at crisis speed its government and citizenry to restore a safe climate and environment not just for our state but for communities across the United States and the globe, particularly for the young who have contributed the least to the crisis: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas, the Senate concurring therein: That we recognize that the current global climate crisis demands a massive mobilization to address, halt and reverse its causes and prevent its consequences; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the State of Kansas shall send an enrolled copy of this resolution to Representative Xu.