Speaker Alucard (for herself, Senator Searles, Senator Conn, and Director of Sustainability Wilde) introduced the following bill

**AN ORDER**

**TITLE:** Declaration of Climate Emergency

**WHEREAS:** Global scale climate change has been scientifically linked to anthropogenic causes by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change scientists\(^1\), and

**WHEREAS:** The impacts of this climate change can be easily seen globally through wildfires, polar vortices, droughts, increased storm intensity, flooding, etc., and

**WHEREAS:** Any failure to acknowledge the global implications of climate change is willful ignorance of indisputable scientific fact, and

**WHEREAS:** Iowa State University of Science and Technology prides itself on scientific discovery and advancement and markets cutting edge research in many academic fields, and

**WHEREAS:** The Climate Commitment Plan adopted by Iowa State Student Government in 2019, contained goals around creating a university sustainability group, comprised of students and faculty, that is charged with overseeing the implementation of climate efforts at Iowa State such as working with campus departments to create a Strategic Plan addressing climate change and transitioning to 100% renewable electricity by 2035\(^2\), and

**WHEREAS:** Globally, low-income families spend 50-60% of their household income on food, while for the wealthiest, it is less than 10% and, due to climate change, food prices will increase substantially, with predictions like a 23% increase in South Asia and 77% in Sub-Saharan Africa and, because of this, 100 million low-income people in the poorest countries in the world will be in poverty by 2030 and will be unable to afford food\(^3\), and

**WHEREAS:** Climate extremes negatively impact crop and livestock productivity. This is due in part to increased soil erosion and runoff, and an increase of unwanted pests and pathogens due to increased temperature and precipitation.\(^4\) With Iowa being an agricultural state, climate change has an extremely negative impact on our economy, and

**WHEREAS:** Oil and gas companies including bp, Shell, Chevron, and others have acknowledged the existence of climate change, and have committed to reducing emissions in their

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\(^2\) Iowa State Student Government, “Climate Commitment Plan”, Ames, Iowa


\(^4\) Iowa State Student Government, “Climate Commitment Plan”, Ames, Iowa
operations, investing in green infrastructure, growing low carbon offers for customers, and working with policy makers to design balanced and transparent greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions policies to address environmental concerns,\(^4,5,6\) and

**WHEREAS:** The impending climate crisis is a non-partisan issue with the Department of Defense under the President Trump administration, as well as the past four administrations, stating that, “The effects of a changing climate are a national security issue with potential impacts to Department of Defense missions, operational plans, and installations”,\(^7\) and

**WHEREAS:** On July 20th 2019, University of Iowa Student Government passed legislation at the conference of the Alliance of the Big Ten Schools which led to all of the big ten schools signing on to declare a climate emergency,\(^8\) and

**WHEREAS:** The University of Northern Iowa and the University of Iowa have both declared a climate emergency within their respective student governments to portray to their students and university leaders that climate change is a real and immediate threat to the state of Iowa, and, as a university priding itself in science and technology, Iowa State University must show its dedication to responding to changing science and technology by declaring a climate emergency,\(^9,10\) and

**WHEREAS:** Over 809 million people are represented by over 1,300 local governments and 25 countries that have declared a Climate Emergency including 75 in the United States\(^11\), be it therefore

RESOLVED: Iowa State University Student Government supports the declaration of a climate emergency to display that all regent universities in Iowa are concerned and invested in making a change, and be it further

RESOLVED: Iowa State University should be committed to reducing fossil fuel use and taking steps to shut down the coal and natural gas burners at the power plant on campus, and be it further

RESOLVED: Iowa State University create a structured and detailed plan to reach carbon neutrality as soon as possible, and be it further

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\(^8\) University of Iowa Student Government, “Joint Resolution on the Climate Change Call to Action”, Iowa City, IA


\(^10\) University of Iowa Student Government, “Joint Resolution on the Climate Change Call to Action”, Iowa City, IA


\(^12\) Iowa. Department of Natural Resources, “Climate Change”, [https://www.iowadnr.gov/conservation/climate-change](https://www.iowadnr.gov/conservation/climate-change)
RESOLVED: Iowa State University works with local, county, and state community members and stakeholders to strategically set feasible goals and plans of action to combat climate change.

RESOLVED: Iowa State University should commit to educating students and faculty about climate change through expert panels, presentations, campus-wide sustainability events, and reforming curriculum to include a required sustainability course. And be it further

RESOLVED: This Declaration of Climate Emergency will be sent to President Wendy Wintersteen, the Board of Regents, Dr. Bill Gutowski, the University Sustainability Committee, the Sustainability Advisory Committee and forwarded to the Graduate and Professional Student Senate to vote on as a joint resolution.