

THE CLIMATE CRISIS

WHEREAS, for the first time since the dawn of humanity, Earth's atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide has passed 415 parts per million (ppm); and

WHEREAS, scientists have warned our planet cannot sustain concentrations of carbon dioxide in excess of 400 parts per million (ppm); and

WHEREAS, scientists have declared carbon emissions must be cut in half by 2030 to avoid catastrophic storms, droughts, floods, extreme heat, brutal winters and other natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, scientists have also said human society is in jeopardy of extinction from the accelerated annihilation of wildlife and the continued destruction of irreplaceable ecosystems that support all life on earth; and

WHEREAS, corporations that contribute the most to polluting the planet, such as Exxon Mobil, have known about the devastating impact climate change would have on the world since the 1950s and proceeded to cover up their findings in pursuit of profit over people; and

WHEREAS, right-wing groups like the Koch Family Foundations have spent nearly \$128 million attacking climate change science and potential legislative solutions like the Green New Deal; and

WHEREAS, the Trump administration has empowered grifters and charlatans to promote climate denialism on the international stage, dismissed a study by their own administration's scientists detailing the impact of climate change ("I don't believe it"), and has withdrawn the United States from the Paris Agreement, which aims to limit the increase in global temperature to under 1.5 degrees Celsius; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has abdicated their responsibility to the American people and to the human race by refusing to seriously consider and pass legislation to address this existential threat to human existence; and

WHEREAS, the Green New Deal, a stimulus package that would address climate change and economic inequality in part by creating good-paying union jobs, is currently being championed by U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (N.Y.) and U.S. Sen. Ed Markey (Mass.).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OPEIU and its affiliates endorse passage of this critical legislation and will create an internal committee to explore the benefits of the Green New Deal on the workplace and to educate, organize and activate our members to engage with this and other climate crisis solutions.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED JUNE 2019