



A PROCLAMATION ENDORSING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to keep warming “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C”; and

WHEREAS, the harm already caused by global warming of approximately 1°C demonstrates that the Earth is already too hot, as shown by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts and extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, in Boulder County these impacts are already manifesting themselves in the form of wildfires burning twice as much acreage now as they did in 1980; more frequent and more severe flooding such as the devastating flood of 2013; and an increase in the number of summer days that will reach temperatures of over 95°F from an average of five between 1970-1999 to as many as 75 by the end of the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, climate change and the global economy’s overshoot of ecological limits are driving the sixth mass extinction of species, which could devastate much of life on Earth for the next 10 million years; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America has disproportionately contributed to the climate and ecological crises and has repeatedly obstructed global efforts to transition toward a sustainable economy, and thus bears an extraordinary responsibility to help address these crises; and

WHEREAS, the risks of climate change are being increasingly recognized by major corporations and financial institutions such as the World Bank, which found that climate change impacts could push an additional 100 million people into poverty by 2030; and

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires mobilization to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors, and to implement measures to protect all people and species from the consequences of abrupt climate change; and

WHEREAS, the “Just Transition” is a framework for a fair shift to an economy that is ecologically sustainable, equitable and just for all its members; and

WHEREAS, justice requires that frontline communities, which have historically borne the brunt of the extractive fossil-fuel economy, participate actively in the planning and implementation of this mobilization effort; and

WHEREAS, clean energy resources such as solar, wind, and energy efficiency are providing growing numbers of good-paying jobs, and becoming less expensive and highly reliable due to rapid improvements in technology; and

WHEREAS, Boulder County can act as a leader by joining the calls for local, state, and federal governments to undertake a unified just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort;

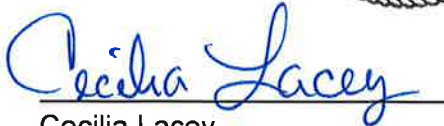
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE BOARD OF BOULDER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THAT A CLIMATE EMERGENCY THREATENS OUR COUNTY, REGION, STATE, NATION, AND THE NATURAL WORLD

To support a countywide climate emergency mobilization and just transition effort to reverse global warming, including reducing countywide greenhouse gas emissions 45% below 2005 levels by 2030 and 90% below 2005 levels by 2050, and implementing adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying climate impacts, the Board of Boulder County Commissioners hereby proclaim a climate emergency.

APPROVED on the 23rd of July, 2019.



ATTEST:


Cecilia Lacey

Clerk to the Board



Chair, Elise Jones



Vice Chair, Deb Gardner


Commissioner Matt Jones