

Title: Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to implement an Agenda to **Transform, Heal, and Renew by Investing in a Vibrant Economy (THRIVE)**

Whereas families and communities throughout the United States share hopes and dreams of a good life that is free from worry about meeting basic needs, with reliable and fulfilling work, a dignified and healthy standard of living, and the ability to enjoy time with loved ones;

Whereas the United States faces the stress of multiple, overlapping crises—old and new—that prevent the achievement of these fundamental human rights and needs, in which the COVID–19 pandemic has killed over 180,000 United States residents; tens of millions of United States workers remain unemployed; racism and white supremacy threaten the lives of Black, Brown, and Indigenous people; rising economic inequality has made working families vulnerable; tens of millions of people do not get the health care they need; and intensifying climate change increases the threats to our health, economy, and livelihoods;

Whereas these health, economic, social, and climate crises have magnified centuries-old injustices, causing especially high rates of death and hardship among Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities due to long-standing systemic racism—a fact spotlighted by an emerging, multiracial movement to end violence against Black people;

Whereas these crises are causing the inequitable workloads of women to increase because women—particularly women of color—overwhelmingly make up the essential workforce, bearing the weight of the increased care needs of children, the elderly, and the sick;

Whereas even before the COVID–19 crisis many rural communities and independent family farmers suffered from poverty, declining economic opportunities, and alarming rates of farm bankruptcy, including loss of land from Black farmers and exploitation of Black, Brown, and Indigenous farmers caused by predatory and racist public, private, and governmental institutions and policies;

Whereas the root of our interlocking economic and environmental crises is the notion—driven by powerful elites—that our society can treat some communities as sacrifice zones and some workers as disposable;

Whereas it is necessary to counteract systemic injustice, promote solidarity, and value the dignity of all individuals in order to address unemployment, pandemics, or climate change and ensure the survival of the Nation and the planet;

Whereas the choices made in response to these crises will shape the United States’ direction for the 21st century and beyond, offering an opportunity to reshape our society to provide a good life for each of us and for our children and grandchildren; and

Whereas the United States has the means to support fulfilling livelihoods for millions of people—of all races and national origins, urban and rural, old and young, and of all faiths, genders, abilities, and talents—while working to heal harms, protect communities, and invest in a future that fosters justice, not crisis: Now therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the [Senate/House of Representatives] that—

(1) it is the duty of the Federal Government to respond to the crises of racial injustice, mass unemployment, the COVID–19 pandemic, and climate change with a bold and holistic national mobilization, an Agenda to Transform, Heal, and Renew by Investing in a Vibrant Economy (“THRIVE”) (referred to in this resolution as the “Agenda”), to build a society that

enables—

- (A) increased racial, economic, gender, and environmental justice;
- (B) dignified work;
- (C) healthy communities free from pollution; and
- (D) a stable climate; and

(2) such Agenda shall be assessed upon its ability to uphold fundamental pillars, including—

(A) creating millions of good, safe jobs with access to unions, including by—

(i) investing in projects including—

(I) upgrading our broken infrastructure to expand access to clean and affordable energy, transportation, high-speed broadband, and water, particularly for public systems;

(II) investing in public health and care work, including by increasing jobs, protections, wages, and benefits for the historically underpaid, unpaid, and undervalued work of caring for children, the elderly, and the sick;

(III) modernizing and retrofitting millions of homes, schools, offices, and industrial buildings to cut pollution and costs;

(IV) protecting and restoring wetlands, forests, and public lands, and cleaning up pollution in our communities;

(V) creating opportunities for family farmers and rural communities, including by untangling the hyper-consolidated food supply chain, bolstering regenerative agriculture, and investing in local and regional food systems that support farmers, agricultural workers, healthy soil, and climate resilience; and

(VI) developing and transforming the industrial base of the United States, while creating high-skill, high-wage manufacturing jobs across the country, including by expanding manufacturing of clean technologies, reducing industrial pollution, and prioritizing clean, domestic manufacturing for the aforementioned investments;

(ii) prioritizing the mobilization of direct public investments while excluding false solutions that—

(I) increase inequality;

(II) privatize public lands, water, or nature;

(III) violate human rights;

(IV) expedite the destruction of ecosystems; or

(V) decrease union density or membership;

(iii) driving investment toward real full employment, where every individual who wishes to work has a viable pathway to a meaningful and dignified job with the right to form a union, including by establishing new public employment programs, as necessary; and

(iv) subjecting each job created under this Agenda to high-road labor standards that—

(I) require family-sustaining wages and benefits, including child care support;

(II) ensure safe workplaces;

(III) protect the rights of workers to organize; and

(IV) prioritize the hiring of local workers to ensure wages stay within communities to stimulate economic activity;

(B) building the power of workers to fight inequality, including by—

(i) reversing the corporate erosion of workers' organizing rights and bargaining power so that millions of new clean energy jobs, as well as millions of existing low-wage jobs across the economy, become the family-supporting union jobs that everyone deserves, including by—

(I) passing the bipartisan Protecting the Right to Organize Act;

(II) repealing the ban on secondary boycotts;

(III) requiring employer neutrality with regard to union organizing;

(IV) ensuring that “franchising” and other corporate structures may not be used to hinder collective bargaining on a company-wide, regional, or national basis;

(V) advancing sectoral bargaining in certain economic sectors; and

(VI) ensuring that no workers are misclassified as “independent contractors;” and

(ii) expanding union representation for all workers; and

(iii) creating ladders of opportunity, particularly for women and people of color, to access registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs in communities of all sizes across the country;

(C) investing in Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities to build power and counteract racial and gender injustice, including by—

(i) directing at least 40 percent of investments to communities that have been excluded, oppressed, or harmed by racist or unjust practices, including—

(I) Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities;

(II) low-income and low-wealth communities;

(III) deindustrialized communities; and

(IV) communities facing environmental injustice;

(ii) ensuring that investments in these communities enable—

(I) the creation of good jobs with family-sustaining wages;

(II) economic ownership opportunities that close the racial wealth gap;

(III) pollution reduction;

- (IV) climate resilience;
 - (V) small business support;
 - (VI) economic opportunities for independent family farmers and ranchers; and
 - (VII) the expansion of public services;
- (iii) ensuring that affected communities have the power to democratically plan, implement, and administer these projects;
 - (iv) prioritizing local and equitable hiring and contracting that creates opportunities for—
 - (I) Black, Brown, and Indigenous people;
 - (II) immigrants, regardless of immigration status;
 - (III) formerly incarcerated individuals;
 - (IV) women;
 - (V) LGBTQIAP+ individuals;
 - (VI) disabled and chronically ill individuals; and
 - (VII) marginalized communities;
 - (v) providing access to quality workforce training, including through registered apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships, to ensure real pathways to good careers, including those that have historically been inaccessible;

(D) strengthening and healing the nation-to-nation relationship with sovereign Native Nations, including by—

- (i) making systemic changes in Federal policies to honor and strengthen the Trust Responsibility to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, with implementation across all government agencies and with specific attention to environmental and social issues, which are integral to tackling today's crises;
- (ii) strengthening Tribal sovereignty and enforcing Indian treaty rights by moving towards greater recognition and support of their inherent self-governance and sovereignty of these nations and their members; and
- (iii) promulgating specific initiatives that reflect the nuanced relationships between the Native Nations and the U.S. government, including—
 - (I) the confirmation by Congress that Tribal nations can exercise their full and inherent civil, regulatory, and adjudicatory authority, over their own citizens, lands, resources, and activities within their Tribal lands;
 - (II) the codification of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, as it relates to tribal consultation;
 - (III) the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, without qualification;

(E) combating environmental injustice and ensuring healthy lives for all, including by—

- (i) curtailing air, water, and land pollution from all sources;
- (ii) removing health hazards from communities;
- (iii) replacing lead pipes to ensure clean water is available to all;
- (iv) remediating the cumulative health and environmental impacts of toxic pollution and climate change;
- (v) ensuring that affected communities have equitable access to public health resources that have been systemically denied, which includes—
 - (I) upgrading unhealthy and overcrowded homes, public schools, and public hospitals;
 - (II) ensuring access to healthy food, mental health support, and restorative justice; and
 - (III) investing in universal childcare, care for individuals with disabilities, senior care, and a robust care workforce; and
- (vi) focusing these initiatives in Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities that have endured disproportionately high death rates from COVID–19 due to higher exposure to air pollution and other cumulative health hazards as a result of decades of environmental racism;

(F) averting climate and environmental catastrophe, including by—

- (i) contributing to a livable climate and environment for today and for future generations, including by—
 - (I) staying below 1.5 degrees Celsius of global warming;
 - (II) building climate resilience to keep communities safe; and
 - (III) ensuring sustainable resource use;
- (ii) deploying investments and standards in the electricity, transportation, buildings, manufacturing, lands, and agricultural sectors to spur the largest expansion in history of clean, renewable energy, emissions reductions, climate resilience, and sustainable resource use;
- (iii) transforming the power sector in order to move the country, by not later than 2035, to carbon pollution-free electricity that passes an environmental justice screen to prevent concentrating pollution in Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities;
- (iv) prioritizing materials and parts that meet high labor, environmental, and human rights standards throughout the supply chain;
- (v) supporting sustainable, domestic production of healthy, nutritious food that pays independent farmers and ranchers a fair price for their land stewardship; and
- (vi) ensuring that no funding under this Agenda goes to corporate fossil fuel polluters, but rather to workers and communities affected by the economic and environmental crises;

(G) ensuring fairness for workers and communities affected by economic transitions, including by—

(i) guaranteeing that workers and communities in industries and regions in economic transition due to COVID–19, climate change, and other economic shocks receive—

(I) guaranteed wages and benefits, including full pension and healthcare;

(II) early retirement offerings;

(III) crisis and trauma support; and

(IV) equitable job placement; and

(ii) investing in transitioning areas to support—

(I) economic diversification;

(II) high quality job creation;

(III) community reinvestment;

(IV) retooling and conversion;

(V) reclamation and remediation of closed and abandoned facilities and sites;

(VI) child and adult care infrastructure; and

(VII) funding to shore up budget shortfalls in local and State governments;
and

(H) reinvesting in public institutions that enable workers and communities to thrive, including by—

(i) rebuilding vital public services and strengthening social infrastructure in cities and counties, healthcare systems, schools, the postal service, and other services;

(ii) investing in equitable public education opportunities, including career and technical education pathways that prepare youth – especially girls; Black, Brown, and Indigenous students; students with disabilities; students from low-income families; and other students from marginalized groups – for high-quality jobs of the future, and state of the art technology and schools, so that students from the beginning are prepared to transform society and preserve democracy;

(iii) investing in the workers who provide care to children, the elderly, and communities burdened by neglect;

(iv) creating new public institutions, inspired by and improving upon New Deal-era institutions, to ensure universal access to critical resources and to strategically and coherently mobilize and channel investments, in line with the aforementioned priorities, at the scale and pace that these times require; and

(v) coupling this institutional renewal with democratic governance and accountability to correct the systemic misallocation of resources and representation that prevents families and communities from meeting fundamental human needs and pursuing fulfilling lives.