

## **Draft Democratic Party Resolution**

WHEREAS it is confirmed that climate change poses an immediate and growing threat to human health; will continue to create catastrophic and costly weather extremes both on the Virginia coast and inland; and is a direct threat to national security;

WHEREAS the Commonwealth is already experiencing costly effects of climate change across our state today, be it through sea-level rise at the cultural gem of Tangier Island and at the economic engine of Hampton Roads, or through ever-higher asthma rates in Richmond;

WHEREAS there is a moral imperative to immediately address this solvable challenge that faces humanity, in order to safeguard our children and our most vulnerable populations;

WHEREAS our President is leading a national and international effort to combat this growing humanitarian threat;

WHEREAS the President and the U.S. EPA have set forth commonsense, achievable reductions for Virginia's largest source of climate change-causing pollution through its Clean Power Plan, a reduction goal that the Commonwealth is already on the way to achieving;

WHEREAS Virginia's statewide Democratic leaders – Senators Warner and Kaine, Governor McAuliffe, Lieutenant Governor Northam and Attorney General Herring have each shown tremendous leadership and foresight in recognizing the opportunity of the Clean Power Plan and supporting such a commonsense approach;

WHEREAS Governor McAuliffe recognizes solar energy and energy efficiency are untapped areas of significant economic growth and innovation across the Commonwealth and are the single greatest tools to simultaneously address climate change and modernize a more competitive energy economy while lowering our higher-than-national-average electricity bills;

WHEREAS the majority of our citizenry want us to show leadership through a strong Clean Power Plan based on clean energy and energy efficiency;

WHEREAS we can grow the new Virginia economy by investing and diversifying our energy sector and stemming the most catastrophic and costly effects of climate change;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Virginia will continue to support President Obama, Governor McAuliffe, and all Virginia Elected Officials as they continue to work toward common sense measures such as clean energy, energy efficiency, and emission reduction, to combat climate change and create the next generation of clean energy jobs and build the new Virginia economy.