

“(1) There exists evidence that manmade pollution—the release of carbon dioxide, chlorofluorocarbons, methane, and other trace gases into the atmosphere—may be producing a long-term and substantial increase in the average temperature on Earth, a phenomenon known as global warming through the greenhouse effect.

“(2) By early in the next century, an increase in Earth temperature could—

“(A) so alter global weather patterns as to have an effect on existing agricultural production and on the habitability of large portions of the Earth; and

“(B) cause thermal expansion of the oceans and partial melting of the polar ice caps and glaciers, resulting in rising sea levels.

“(3) Important research into the problem of climate change is now being conducted by various United States Government and international agencies, and the continuation and intensification of those efforts will be crucial to the development of an effective United States response.

“(4) While the consequences of the greenhouse effect may not be fully manifest until the next century, ongoing pollution and deforestation may be contributing now to an irreversible process. Necessary actions must be identified and implemented in time to protect the climate.

“(5) The global nature of this problem will require vigorous efforts to achieve international cooperation aimed at minimizing and responding to adverse climate change; such international cooperation will be greatly enhanced by United States leadership. A key step in international cooperation will be the meeting of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Program, scheduled for June 1989, which will seek to determine a direction for worldwide efforts to control global climate change.

“(6) Effective United States leadership in the international arena will depend upon a coordinated national policy.

“SEC. 1103. MANDATE FOR ACTION ON THE GLOBAL CLIMATE.

“(a) GOALS OF UNITED STATES POLICY.—United States policy should seek to—

“(1) increase worldwide understanding of the greenhouse effect and its environmental and health consequences;

“(2) foster cooperation among nations to develop more extensive and coordinated scientific research efforts with respect to the greenhouse effect;

“(3) identify technologies and activities to limit mankind’s adverse effect on the global climate by—

“(A) slowing the rate of increase of concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere in the near term; and

“(B) stabilizing or reducing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases over the long term; and

“(4) work toward multilateral agreements.

“(b) FORMULATION OF UNITED STATES POLICY.—The President, through the Environmental Protection Agency, shall be responsible for developing and proposing to Congress a coordinated national policy on global climate change. Such policy formulation shall consider research findings of the Committee on Earth Sciences of the Federal Coordinating Council on Science and Engineering Technology, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautic and Space Administration, the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other organizations engaged in the conduct of scientific research.

“(c) COORDINATION OF UNITED STATES POLICY IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA.—The Secretary of State shall be responsible to coordinate those aspects of United States policy requiring action through the channels of multilateral diplomacy, including the United Nations Environment Program and other international organi-

zations. In the formulation of these elements of United States policy, the Secretary of State shall, under the direction of the President, work jointly with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and other United States agencies concerned with environmental protection, consistent with applicable Federal law.

“SEC. 1104. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

“Not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 22, 1987], the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall jointly submit to all committees of jurisdiction in the Congress a report which shall include—

“(1) a summary analysis of current international scientific understanding of the greenhouse effect, including its environmental and health consequences;

“(2) an assessment of United States efforts to gain international cooperation in limiting global climate change; and

“(3) a description of the strategy by which the United States intends to seek further international cooperation to limit global climate change.

“SEC. 1105. INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF GLOBAL CLIMATE PROTECTION.

“In order to focus international attention and concern on the problem of global warming, and to foster further work on multilateral treaties aimed at protecting the global climate, the Secretary of State shall undertake all necessary steps to promote, within the United Nations system, the early designation of an International Year of Global Climate Protection.

“SEC. 1106. CLIMATE PROTECTION AND UNITED STATES RELATIONS WITH THE INDEPENDENT STATES OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION.

“In recognition of the respective leadership roles of the United States and the independent states of the former Soviet Union in the international arena, and of the extent to which they are producers of atmospheric pollutants, the Congress urges that the President accord the problem of climate protection a high priority on the agenda of United States relations with the independent states.”

§ 2902. Purpose

It is the purpose of the Congress in this chapter to establish a national climate program that will assist the Nation and the world to understand and respond to natural and man-induced climate processes and their implications.

(Pub. L. 95-367, § 3, Sept. 17, 1978, 92 Stat. 601.)

§ 2903. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) The term “Board” means the Climate Program Policy Board.

(2) The term “Office” means the National Climate Program Office.

(3) The term “Program” means the National Climate Program.

(4) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

(Pub. L. 95-367, § 4, Sept. 17, 1978, 92 Stat. 601; Pub. L. 99-272, title VI, § 6084(a), Apr. 7, 1986, 100 Stat. 136.)

AMENDMENTS

1986—Pub. L. 99-272 added par. (1) and redesignated former pars. (1) to (3) as (2) to (4), respectively.