Environmental Education and the 115th Congress

Climate Change Education Act

S. 2740, H.R. 5606 (both bills have the same language)

Our Request

- Cosponsor the Bill in the Senate or House

To Cosponsor the Climate Change Education Act or for More Information

Office of Sen. Ed Markey (MA), staff contact: Andrew Zack, andrew_zack@markey.senate.gov
Office of Rep. Carol Shea-Porter (NH-1), staff contact: Tony Hobbs, tony.hobbs@mail.house.gov

The Case for Climate Education and the Climate Change Education Act

There’s a consensus that mitigation strategies to fight climate change will be much more effective if they are implemented quickly. If we wait to act, we will allow climate change to continue. Understanding is the key. The informed decisions of individual citizens and leaders will be required to have a significant impact on the reduction of greenhouse gases, and adoption of resilience strategies against the effects of climate change.

This climate change education legislation will create a Climate Change Education Program (CCEP) in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to broaden the understanding of human-induced climate change, possible long and short-term consequences, and potential solutions. The program will promote education about national strategies for resilience to counter the effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and rising sea levels, to make sure our infrastructure - including the energy and transportation sectors – is safe and reliable in the future. The latest scientific and technological discoveries will be used to provide formal and informal learning opportunities to people of all ages, including those of diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

The activities of the program will emphasize actionable information to help people understand and to promote implementation of new technologies, programs, and incentives related to energy conservation, renewable energy, and greenhouse gas reduction. These activities include supporting teacher training in STEM fields to incorporate climate change science into K-12 curricula, improving quality and access to higher education for green collar jobs, and public education, including delivering direct services on resilience to climate change in local communities. This climate change education legislation will help people of all ages get the knowledge they need to start fighting human-induced climate change now.

Legislative History

First introduced in the 110th Congress as the Global Warming Education Act, it was reintroduced in substantially the same form in the 111th, 113th, 114th and now the 115th. It was not voted on in the previous Congresses. Sponsors for the different versions were: Sen. Barack Obama (IL), Sen. Ed Markey (MA), and Rep. Mike Honda (CA-17).

Additional Information

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