

# CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN HEALTH

Resolution 106-02 (Adopted 2-24-02)

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Whereas, Average temperatures on earth have climbed more than one degree Fahrenheit over the past century, while average temperatures have increased 9 degrees Fahrenheit since the last Ice Age over 10,000 years ago; [1] and

Whereas, There is overwhelming scientific evidence that greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere as a result of human activities has significantly contributed to the phenomenon of global climate change; [2] and

Whereas, If predicted ranges of releases of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere continue, scientists predict that the average temperature of the earth will increase from 2.5 to 10.4 degrees Fahrenheit by the year 2100; [3] and

Whereas, Scientific evidence links global climate change to increased weather extremes (flooding, storms, droughts, and heat waves), which all have significant potential effects on the environment, agriculture, wildlife, and public health, including emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases; [4] and

Whereas, Experts estimate that to avoid catastrophic effects on human existence, there would need to be a 70-percent reduction of greenhouse gases; [5] and

Whereas, The United States comprises only 4 percent of the world's population, while currently producing 25 percent of all greenhouse gases; [6] and

Whereas, The Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change sought to address climate change by setting binding targets for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by developed countries; [7] and

Whereas, An effective emissions control program could be instituted without causing a significant negative impact on our nation's economy by combining energy conservation with new alternative technologies that would reduce dependency on fossil fuels; [8] now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That CMA strongly urge the President of the United States to take proactive steps to curb greenhouse emissions and work with other nations to address the increasing

dangers of global climate change by committing to binding reduction targets for emissions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this matter be referred for national action.

#### References

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