

## PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-

To provide for the support of RI in reducing greenhouse gas emissions

**Proposed by** the Rotary Club of Madison, District 6250, USA

To amend the **BYLAWS** of Rotary International as follows (page 195 MOP)

### **Article 25 Global Warming Humanitarian Crisis**

RI supports the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the global warming humanitarian crisis. This article may be deleted after atmospheric CO2 levels fall below 350 parts per million.

(Subsequent articles will be renumbered as appropriate)

And to amend the **STANDARD ROTARY CLUB CONSTITUTION** as follows (page 208 MOP)

### **Article 13 Community, National, and International Affairs**

**Section 1 — Proper Subjects.** The merits of any public question involving the general welfare of the community, the nation, and the world are of concern to the members of this club and shall be proper subjects of fair and informed study and discussion at a club meeting for the enlightenment of its members in forming their individual opinions. However, this club shall not express an opinion on any pending controversial public measure. This club may nevertheless support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the global warming humanitarian crisis.

### **Section 3 — Non-Political.**

- (a) *Resolutions and Opinions.* This club shall neither adopt nor circulate resolutions or opinions, and shall not take action dealing with world affairs or international policies of a political nature. This club may nevertheless support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the global warming humanitarian crisis.
- (b) *Appeals.* This club shall not direct appeals to clubs, peoples, or governments, or circulate letters, speeches, or proposed plans for the solution of specific international problems of a political nature. This club may nevertheless support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the global warming humanitarian crisis.

(End of Text)

**PURPOSE AND EFFECT**

The global warming humanitarian crisis threatens to undo much of the good work done through Rotary's service projects. Polio eradication is being impeded by flooding, sewage contamination of water, and migration caused by global warming. This looming catastrophe dwarfs polio, having already created climate refugees and contributed to war, food shortages and drought. The Millennium Project deems global warming to be the biggest problem facing humanity.

Average CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in 2013 were a historical high of 396 parts per million (ppm) – 141 percent of the pre-industrial level of 280 ppm. The 10 warmest years since 1880 have occurred after 1997.

The vast majority of scientists worldwide believe that it is almost certain that global warming is caused by human greenhouse gas emissions (GGEs). The longer we wait to reduce GGEs, especially CO<sub>2</sub>, the greater the human suffering, the higher the cost to slow the warming, and the greater the damage to world economies. Prudent risk management dictates that we reduce GGEs rapidly.

“Service Above Self” dictates that we work to reduce GGEs and proactively share information with others. We cannot ‘adapt’ to global warming; temperatures will continue to rise unless GGEs are significantly reduced. Individuals need to reduce their emissions and clubs need to undertake projects to reduce GGEs and share information.

Supporting the reduction of GGEs to mitigate global warming is consistent with the Object of Rotary and will help people worldwide. Working to stop the global warming humanitarian crisis will resonate with the next generation of Rotarians, strengthening our organization for the challenges ahead.

We do this for our children, our grandchildren and future generations.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

## **NOTES**

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**VOTE TOTALS**

\_\_\_\_\_ for and \_\_\_\_\_ against

**RESULT**

- ☐ Adopted
- ☐ Adopted as Amended
- ☐ Referred to Board

- ☐ Rejected
- ☐ Tabled
- ☐ Withdrawn