

PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-98

To support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

Proposer(s): Rotary Club of Madison, District 6250, USA

Endorsed by: District 6250 through a ballot-by-mail, 15 December 2014

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

2
3 **Article 25 Global Warming Humanitarian Crisis**

4 RI supports the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the global
5 warming humanitarian crisis.

6
7 (Subsequent articles will be renumbered as appropriate)

8
9 *And to amend the **STANDARD ROTARY CLUB CONSTITUTION** as follows*
10 *(page 208 MOP)*

11
12 **Article 13 Community, National, and International Affairs**

13 **Section 1 — Proper Subjects.** The merits of any public question involving the
14 general welfare of the community, the nation, and the world are of concern to
15 the members of this club and shall be proper subjects of fair and informed study
16 and discussion at a club meeting for the enlightenment of its members in
17 forming their individual opinions. This club, through its club service projects,
18 may support environmental concerns. However, this club shall not express an
19 opinion on any pending controversial public measure.

(End of Text)

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

20 The global warming humanitarian crisis threatens to undo much of Rotary's good
21 work. Polio eradication is being impeded by flooding, sewage contamination of
22 water, and migration caused by climate change. Notwithstanding the urgency
23 and importance of eradicating polio, this looming catastrophe dwarfs polio,
24 having already created climate refugees and contributed to war, food shortages
25 and drought. The Millennium Project deems global warming the biggest problem
26 facing humanity.

27
28 Average CO2 concentrations in 2014 were a historical high of 399 parts per
29 million (ppm), a 43 percent increase over the pre-industrial level of 280 ppm.
30 The 11 warmest years since 1880 have occurred after 1997 – and 2014 was the
31 hottest year on record.

1 The vast majority of scientists worldwide believe that it is almost certain that
2 global warming is caused by human greenhouse gas emissions (GGEs). The
3 longer we wait to reduce GGEs, especially CO2, the greater the human suffering,
4 the higher the cost to slow the warming, and the greater the damage to world
5 economies. Prudent risk management dictates that we reduce GGEs rapidly.
6 Climate disruption is an unprecedented global crisis, and therefore compels an
7 unprecedented response from Rotarians worldwide.
8
9 “Service Above Self” dictates that we work to reduce GGEs and proactively share
10 information. We cannot ‘adapt’ to global warming; temperatures will continue to
11 rise unless GGEs are significantly reduced. Individuals need to reduce their
12 emissions and clubs need to undertake projects to reduce GGEs and share
13 information.
14
15 Supporting the reduction of GGEs to mitigate global warming will help people
16 worldwide and is consistent with the Object of Rotary. Working to stop the
17 global warming humanitarian crisis is resonating with the next generation of
18 Rotarians and will strengthen Rotary for the challenges ahead.
19
20 We do this for our children, our grandchildren and future generations.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

21 This enactment could have a financial impact on RI which cannot be determined
22 at this time. Cost would be dependent on the scope and extent of support
23 provided by the RI Board to accomplish this goal.

VOTE TOTALS

_____ yes

_____ no

RESULT

☐ Adopted

☐ Adopted as Amended

☐ Referred to Board

☐ Rejected

☐ Tabled

☐ Withdrawn

NOTES