

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, nearly all of Texas, including every county in Central Texas, has been designated as a federal disaster area by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture because of the ongoing drought and the impact to Texas farmers and ranchers; and

WHEREAS, data from the U.S. Census Bureau shows that the City of Austin is one of the most rapidly growing metropolitan areas in the U.S., but dwindling water supplies may challenge the way of life in the area; and

WHEREAS, estimates show that the record Bastrop wildfires and recent Halloween flood in Onion Creek cost Central Texans more than \$467 million in damages, deaths, and ongoing hardship on families impacted by the extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, the latest National Climate Assessment report cites the annual cost of climate disruption in Texas to be \$5,252,229,434; and

WHEREAS, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has indicated that all air monitoring stations in the northern hemisphere of the planet in May 2014 are showing levels of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas, above 400 parts per million, a value scientists have determined has not been reached in over 1 million years; and

WHEREAS, the National Academy of Sciences, the most preeminent scientific body in the United States, has said that human caused greenhouse gas emissions are changing the climate; and

WHEREAS, according to the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which is comprised of the world's leading climate scientists, greenhouse gas emissions need to be cut by at least 80% from 1990 levels by 2050 to avoid the worst impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court in 2007, in the *Massachusetts vs EPA* decision, determined that the Clean Air Act gives the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency the authority to regulate emissions of greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, on June 2, 2014, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released proposed rules to limit emissions of greenhouse gas pollution from power plants in the U.S.;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City of Austin hereby supports and gives its endorsement to the proposed rules published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on June 2, 2014 to control greenhouse gas pollution from power plants in the United States.

ADOPTED: _____

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

DRAFT