



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 21, 2021

LA City Council Unanimously Approves Historic Resolution from Councilmember Paul Koretz Calling For Global Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty *Entreats Other Cities to Sign On as Climate Emergency Continues to Worsen*

Los Angeles, CA – Earth Day - LA Councilmember Paul Koretz received unanimous approval today from the LA City Council for his historic resolution calling for a global Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FFNPT), to halt the building of fossil fuel infrastructure in order to heed the call of scientists to take more aggressive action to keep global warming below an already-hazardous 1.5 degrees Celsius.

“Since, as a group of scientists wrote in January, we are still, globally, facing a ghastly future if we don’t step up our climate actions, we desperately need to stop the madness,” **said LA City Councilmember Paul Koretz**. “If you have lung cancer, you stop smoking. If your planet is overheating, you stop building fossil fuel projects. It’s as simple as that. And we want as many cities as possible to sign on, in order to encourage as many countries as possible to sign on.”

“The science has been clear for some time that fossil fuels are the driving force behind climate change,” **said Council Member Costa Constantinides, Chair of the New York City Council Committee on Environmental Protection**, who also introduced a resolution to support the treaty. “With historic wildfires burning the West Coast and historic storms hitting the Atlantic Coast, the time for half measures is long over. We in New York City stand with our neighbors in Los Angeles in calling on the world’s nations to end our reliance on fossil fuels and create a brighter future.”

“In the same way that towns and cities once backed a nuclear freeze and turned it into a potent international effort,” **Bill McKibben, Author and Founder of 350.org, said**, “now the localities with the most to lose from climate change are backing this new effort for climate sanity.”

“The LA Council’s vote is pivotal, as a step forward locally but also as a turning of the tide in what we hope is the first of many US city endorsements ahead of COP26. LA is sending a clear message about the future their citizens deserve, one abundant with cost-effective, low-carbon energy for every worker, every district and every neighborhood,” **said Tzeborah Berman, Chair of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative and International Program Director at Stand.Earth**. “On the eve of the Leaders Climate Summit and on a day when his Holiness the Dalai Lama was among over 100 Nobel Laureates to call on world leaders to end oil, gas and coal expansion and foster international cooperation for a just transition, we welcome Los Angeles as a first mover within this global movement.”

NEWS

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER
PAUL KORETZ
FIFTH DISTRICT



The movement for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty calls for a global agreement to wean nations off of fossil fuel energy sources, which account for 80% of carbon dioxide emissions, drive pollution and accelerate ever more severe climate disruption. This pact is essential to hold the global average temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius. Scientists warn that any higher rise than that will have catastrophic effects on sea level, agriculture, and air quality in just a few years. Mounting evidence of these accumulating impacts around the globe suggest that they are already occurring much sooner than expected.

Councilmember Koretz is the author of legislation to create in LA the world's first Office of Climate Emergency Mobilization, centered on leadership from frontline communities. The Vancouver City Council on October 15th became the first city to officially endorse the FFNPT. **Seth Klein**, author of the new book, [A Good War: Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency](#), brought the resolution to Councilmember Koretz.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Alison Simard, Director of Communications, Councilmember Paul Koretz

213-473-7005 (office) / 323-445-8402 (cell)

Alison.Simard@lacity.org,

Councilmember Paul Koretz
200 North Spring Street, Room 440
Los Angeles, CA 90012