

RESOLUTION
By Jenkins and Wonsley

Calling on retail brands to support climate advocates by reducing maritime shipping emissions by 100%.

Whereas, Minneapolis has already warmed at least 3.2 degrees Fahrenheit since 1950; and

Whereas, Minneapolis storms and floods are becoming more extreme, with total precipitation amounts increasing by over 20% since 1950; and

Whereas, in the absence of urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s 2021 Sixth Assessment Report indicates that global warming is likely to accelerate in the coming century, reaching up to 10.3 degrees Fahrenheit above pre-Industrial levels by 2100, increasing risk of severe storms, frequent power outages, and deadly heatwaves; and

Whereas, due primarily to its reliance on fossil fueled propulsion, the international shipping industry is one of the world's largest climate polluters, emitting 1 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide a year, more than all coal plants in the U.S. combined; and

Whereas, the international shipping industry's pollution is on the rise and is expected to comprise 17% of global carbon dioxide emissions by 2050 without urgent action; and

Whereas, most cargo ships burn heavy fuel oil, a tar-like waste that remains after all the transparent road fuels like gasoline and diesel are taken out of crude oil, making fossil-fueled shipping a lifeline for the oil industry; and

Whereas, for decades, fossil fueled ships have brought enormous amounts of pollutants into disproportionately working-class Black and brown communities living in and near ports; and

Whereas, ship pollution contributes to an estimated 260,000 premature deaths each year globally, in addition to contributing to higher rates of childhood asthma, cancer, and other ailments in port communities; and

Whereas, according to a July 2021 study by environmental organizations Pacific Environment and Stand.earth, the top 15 maritime import polluters to the United States in 2019 by pollution volumes were Walmart, Ashley Furniture, Target, Dole, Home Depot, Chiquita, IKEA, Amazon, Samsung, Nike, LG, Redbull, Family Dollar, Williams-Sonoma, and Lowes; and

Whereas, according to the same study, in 2019, these top 15 maritime import polluters produced as much sulfur oxide pollution as 2 billion trucks and cars; and

Whereas, according to a November 2021 study by environmental organizations Pacific Environment and Stand.earth, 95% of Target's imports pass through West Coast ports, including 727,146 twenty equipment units through the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach between 2018 and 2020; and

Whereas, the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach form the largest port complex in the Western Hemisphere, with 40% of containerized cargo imports to the United States coming through the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach; and

Whereas, Los Angeles and Long Beach port-adjacent communities, including San Pedro, Wilmington, and West Long Beach, experience up to 5 years lower life expectancy than the national average and the highest risk of cancer regionally, making these communities sacrifice zones of the American economy; and

Whereas, according to the same November 2021 study by environmental organizations Pacific Environment and Stand.earth, Target's digital sales have doubled during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas, due to COVID-19 pandemic-related shopping trends, a record-breaking 100 fossil-fueled ships have been idling and polluting off the shores of the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach for months, increasing particulate matter emissions by an equivalent to 100,000 Class 8 diesel trucks per day; and

Whereas, fossil-fueled ocean shipping harms oceanic wildlife, contributing to the death of virtually all coral reefs globally by mid-century and causing marine animals to have lower sensory ranges; and

Whereas, a substantial majority of American shoppers (84%) believe that the shipping industry should do more to reduce the environmental impacts of global shipping goods according to a 2020 Yale University, George Mason University, and Climate Nexus poll; and

Whereas, zero-emission shipping is expected to become available by 2024, creating a tremendous economic opportunity and source of family-sustaining careers, including 316,700 jobs nationally over 10 years according to a 2021 UC Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy report; and

Whereas, in his March 2022 State of the Union speech, President Joseph Biden called for "modernizing...ports" and "environmental justice" and described the 2020's as "an infrastructure decade"; and

Whereas, the IPCC maintains that we have until 2030 to transform our economy and the way we live to avoid the most chaotic, catastrophic, and irreversible effects of the climate crisis;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That by the adoption of this Resolution, the City Council:

- a. Calls on top maritime import polluters to the United States—including Target, Walmart, Ashley Furniture, Dole, Home Depot, Chiquita, IKEA, Amazon, Samsung, Nike, LG, Redbull, Family Dollar, Williams-Sonoma, and Lowes—to: (1) immediately abandon fossil-fueled ships and adopt existing emissions-reducing technologies, including wind-assisted propulsion and slow-steaming; (2) commit to making all port calls on 100% zero-emissions ships as soon as possible, no later than 2030; (3) transparently account for and disclose all maritime emissions in their annual public climate action policy reports.
- b. Includes in their state and federal legislative agendas priorities to rapidly decarbonize the maritime shipping industry, create zero-emission shipping corridors along the U.S. Coast and across the trans-Pacific trade route, and ultimately end ship pollution.