

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. _____

Establishing the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SCHUMER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Establishing the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS.**

3 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established in the
4 Senate a Select Committee on the Climate Crisis (in this
5 resolution referred to as the “Select Committee”).

6 (b) **COMPOSITION.**—

7 (1) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Select Committee shall
8 be composed of 16 Senators, of whom—

9 (A) 8 shall be appointed by the Majority
10 Leader; and

11 (B) 8 shall be appointed by the Minority
12 Leader.

1 (2) CO-CHAIRPERSONS.—The Majority Leader
2 and the Minority Leader shall each designate 1
3 member of the Select Committee to serve as a Co-
4 Chairperson of the Select Committee.

5 (3) DEADLINE.—Not later than 14 days after
6 the date of adoption of this resolution, the Majority
7 Leader and Minority Leader shall each appoint all
8 members and designate the Co-Chairpersons of the
9 Select Committee.

10 (4) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—Members shall
11 be appointed for the life of the Select Committee.

12 (5) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the membership
13 of the Select Committee—

14 (A) shall not affect its powers; and

15 (B) shall be filled not later than 14 days
16 after the date on which the vacancy occurs, in
17 the same manner as the original appointment
18 was made.

19 (6) DEPARTURE OF MEMBER.—If a member of
20 the Select Committee ceases to be a Member of the
21 Senate, the member is no longer a member of the
22 Select Committee and a vacancy shall exist.

23 (c) FUNDING.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The expenses of the Select
2 Committee shall be paid from the Contingent Fund
3 of the Senate, in a total amount of—

4 (A) not more than \$1,500,000 for the pe-
5 riod beginning on the date of adoption of this
6 resolution and ending on September 30, 2019;
7 and

8 (B) not more than \$2,600,000 for the pe-
9 riod beginning on October 1, 2019 and ending
10 on September 30, 2020.

11 (2) APPROVAL.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
13 subparagraph (B), the expenses of the Select
14 Committee shall be paid upon vouchers ap-
15 proved by the Co-Chairpersons of the Select
16 Committee, in accordance with the rules and
17 regulations of the Senate.

18 (B) VOUCHERS NOT REQUIRED.—Vouchers
19 shall not be required for—

20 (i) the disbursement of salaries of em-
21 ployees paid at an annual rate;

22 (ii) the payment of telecommuni-
23 cations provided by the Office of the Ser-
24 geant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

1 (iii) the payment of stationery sup-
2 plies purchased through the Keeper of the
3 Stationery;

4 (iv) payments to the Postmaster of
5 the Senate;

6 (v) the payment of metered charges
7 on copying equipment provided by the Of-
8 fice of the Sergeant at Arms and Door-
9 keeper;

10 (vi) the payment of Senate Recording
11 and Photographic Services; or

12 (vii) the payment of franked and mass
13 mail costs by the Sergeant at Arms and
14 Doorkeeper.

15 (d) STAFFING.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Co-Chairpersons of the
17 Select Committee may jointly appoint and fix the
18 compensation of employees of the Select Committee
19 in accordance with the guidelines for employees of
20 the Senate and following all applicable rules and em-
21 ployment requirements of the Senate (including
22 those relating to employees of standing committees
23 of the Senate).

24 (2) AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.—There are au-
25 thorized to be paid from the appropriations account

1 for “Inquiries and Investigations” of the Senate
2 such sums as may be necessary for agency contribu-
3 tions related to the compensation of employees of
4 the Select Committee.

5 (e) JURISDICTION; FUNCTIONS.—

6 (1) INVESTIGATIVE JURISDICTION.—The Select
7 Committee shall have the authority to investigate
8 and make findings regarding how inaction on the cli-
9 mate crisis is harming the economic and national se-
10 curity interests of the United States.

11 (2) MEETINGS.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Select Committee
13 shall—

14 (i) meet at the call of the Co-Chair-
15 persons; and

16 (ii) hold its first meeting to plan the
17 activities of the Select Committee not later
18 than 30 days after the date of adoption of
19 this resolution.

20 (B) AGENDA.—Not later than 48 hours be-
21 fore any meeting of the Select Committee, the
22 Co-Chairpersons shall provide an agenda to the
23 members of the Select Committee.

24 (3) HEARINGS.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Select Committee
2 may, for the purpose of carrying out this sec-
3 tion, hold such hearings, sit and act at such
4 times and places, require attendance of wit-
5 nesses and production of books, papers, and
6 documents, take such testimony, receive such
7 evidence, and administer such oaths as the Se-
8 lect Committee considers advisable.

9 (B) ALL HEARINGS PUBLIC.—The hearings
10 of the Select Committee in connection with any
11 aspect of its investigative functions shall be
12 public hearings.

13 (C) HEARING PROCEDURES AND RESPON-
14 SIBILITIES OF CO-CHAIRPERSONS.—

15 (i) ANNOUNCEMENT.—Not later than
16 7 days before any hearing of the Select
17 Committee, the Co-Chairpersons shall
18 make a public announcement of the date,
19 place, time, and subject matter of the
20 hearing, unless the Co-Chairpersons deter-
21 mine that there is good cause to hold the
22 hearing at an earlier date.

23 (ii) EQUAL REPRESENTATION OF WIT-
24 NESSES.—Each Co-Chairperson shall be
25 entitled to select an equal number of wit-

1 nesses for each hearing held by the Select
2 Committee.

3 (iii) WRITTEN STATEMENT.—A wit-
4 ness appearing before the Select Com-
5 mittee shall file a written statement of pro-
6 posed testimony at least 2 days before the
7 appearance of the witness, unless the re-
8 quirement is waived by the Co-Chair-
9 persons, following a joint determination
10 that there is good cause for failure to com-
11 ply with the requirement.

12 (4) MINIMUM NUMBER OF PUBLIC MEETINGS
13 AND HEARINGS.—The Select Committee shall hold
14 not less than a total of 5 public meetings or public
15 hearings.

16 (5) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Upon written re-
17 quest of the Co-Chairpersons, a Federal agency, in-
18 cluding an agency in the legislative branch, shall
19 provide technical assistance to the Select Committee
20 in order for the Select Committee to carry out its
21 duties.

22 (6) COORDINATION WITH STANDING COMMIT-
23 TEES OF THE SENATE.—The Select Committee
24 shall, in conducting official business, coordinate with
25 standing committees with relevant jurisdiction.

1 (7) NO LEGISLATIVE JURISDICTION.—The Se-
2 lect Committee shall not have legislative jurisdiction
3 and shall have no authority to take legislative action
4 on any bill or resolution.

5 (f) REPORTING.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
7 not later than July 31, 2020, the Select Committee
8 shall submit to the Senate and any relevant com-
9 mittee of the Senate a comprehensive report of the
10 results of its investigations and studies, together
11 with such detailed findings as it may determine ad-
12 visable.

13 (2) SEPARATE REPORTS.—If the Select Com-
14 mittee is not able to agree to a report described in
15 paragraph (1) by a majority vote, each Co-Chair-
16 person may submit to the Senate and any relevant
17 committee of the Senate a report on behalf of the
18 members of the Select Committee appointed by the
19 Senate leader that appointed such Co-Chairperson
20 regarding the results of the investigations and stud-
21 ies of the Select Committee.

22 (3) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 30 days
23 after the date on which a report under this sub-
24 section is submitted, the Select Committee shall

1 make the report publicly available in widely acces-
2 sible formats.

3 (g) **TERMINATION.**—The Select Committee shall ter-
4 minate on October 1, 2020.