

SD2138, An Act enabling taxpayer donations to the Least Developed Countries Fund, an initiative of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change

Sponsor: Senator Mike Barrett

SD2138 creates the option of a voluntary donation on state tax returns to help the world's most vulnerable countries cope with global climate change.

This bill:

1. **Imposes No State Costs.** There are no programmatic or net administrative costs to the state and no mandates imposed upon citizens.
2. **Encourages Citizen Participation.** This innovative approach is voluntary, allowing citizens to decide whether to make a contribution.
3. **Helps the Most Vulnerable.** Monies collected go to the U.N. Least Developed Countries Fund, dedicated to helping the 880 million people in the poorest 48 countries on earth, places profoundly susceptible to climate change but with few resources to adapt. Displacement, death, loss of livelihood, disease, and the interruption of economic development are all consequences of a warmer, more intense, and less predictable climate. The Fund is subject to strong oversight; the donations flow directly to those most in need of assistance.
4. **Helps Massachusetts Take Innovative Action.** Massachusetts can lead by example in the worldwide fight against climate change. Largely unprecedented, this integration of state and international action can set a standard for subnational entities, domestically and abroad.

Projects Funded Through the Least Developed Countries Fund

The Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) has been used for efforts to mitigate the devastation of climate change and enhance a country's resiliency. Projects reduce the vulnerability of critical resources, such as water, agriculture and food security, health, disaster risk management and prevention, infrastructure, and fragile ecosystems.

Example: Haiti is experiencing longer dry seasons and shorter rainy seasons. Beach erosion is increasing, fresh water aquifers and estuaries are becoming salt water, and hurricanes are increasing in frequency.

A project funded by the LDCF allows Haiti to shift from reactive crisis management to proactive risk management. Funding is being used to train policy makers and other key staff, and inform future policy for better coastal zone planning. The Haitian community is also revising construction and development standards so that coastal infrastructure and equipment is more resilient to these climate changes.

For more information contact:

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