WHEREAS, The Rhode Island economy was reliant on the military sector for 7.6 percent of its economic output according to the Southern New England Defense Industry Alliance’s (SENEDIA) latest report from 2017; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island’s reliance on the military sector has grown since the SENEDIA report, with millions of dollars in recent state commitments through incentives, exemptions, direct infrastructure spending, and training partnerships; with up to $20 million in incentives to General Dynamics/Electric Boat and 4.5 million for training in 2019; and

WHEREAS, The federal military budget comprises over 50 percent of federal discretionary spending and far outpaces federal spending on other crucial societal needs such as transportation, infrastructure, education, food and housing security; and

WHEREAS, Our growing global military footprint in many ways is a destabilizing factor upon our security and global well-being, possibly inducing a new global arms race; and

WHEREAS, The effects of the climate crisis are becoming more clear and investments in climate mitigation and resilience industries more needed; and

WHEREAS, Public investment in other industries, such as clean energy, infrastructure, education, and health care rather than in the military produces a greater number of jobs, according to research presented by the Costs of War Project at Brown University’s Watson Institute; and

WHEREAS, The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has warned that “rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society” will be required to avoid
a climate catastrophe; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby supports redirecting resources away from militarism and toward the mitigation of and adaptation to the climate crisis in a way that guarantees a just transition for Rhode Islanders working in sectors of reduced economic activity and onto a path that will benefit all Rhode Island communities and in particular, communities of color and poverty whose well-being is often neglected; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Honorable Governor of the State of Rhode Island.

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