



Resolution

No. 2019-22

Urging Congress to Support HR 763

WHEREAS, increases in global average temperatures, the number and intensity of extreme weather events, sea level rise, and the melting of glacial and Arctic ice, indicate that the global climate is changing; and

WHEREAS, Bayfield County has experienced two 500-year extreme rain events in the past three years, which have caused damage to Bayfield County roads, bridges, culverts, and other infrastructure—including roads and recreational trails providing access to the Bayfield County Forest—in excess of six million dollars; and

WHEREAS, studies by the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts project that if climate change continues unchecked, Bayfield County will experience increasingly warmer temperatures, especially during the winter months, and increasing amounts of precipitation and extreme rain events; and

WHEREAS, such changes are likely to have substantial adverse impacts on Bayfield County's highways and roads and other critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, such changes may also have adverse effects on Bayfield County's forests and timber industry by decreasing suitable habitat for such commercially important species as paper birch and quaking aspen, increasing the risk of wildfires, and increasing stress from forest pests, diseases, and non-native species; and

WHEREAS, such changes may also have adverse impacts on Bayfield County agriculture by increasing erosion from extreme rain events, hampering access to fields at critical times, and causing alterations in late-winter freeze/thaw cycles; and

WHEREAS, such changes may also have adverse impacts on Bayfield County's winter tourism economy by decreasing the duration of winter snow cover and rendering winter conditions less predictable; and

WHEREAS, recent reports by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the US government indicate that to avoid the worst potential impacts of climate change, urgent action is needed to reduce carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS, Bayfield County has been a governmental leader in addressing climate change locally by taking numerous steps to increase the energy efficiency of its facilities and increase its use of renewable energy, including the installation of solar panels at a number of its facilities and major participation in Xcel Energy's Ashland Community Solar Garden; and

WHEREAS, in order to reduce carbon emissions most effectively and efficiently, leading economists (including four past chairs of the Federal Reserve Board, 27 Nobel Laureates, and 15 past chairs of the Council of Economic Advisors) recommend a gradually increasing carbon tax on fossil fuels, with the proceeds thereof returned to American households as dividends, and with

a border adjustment system to protect the competitiveness of American firms both nationally and internationally; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, introduced in the current Congress as H.R. 763, meets all of those criteria and has bipartisan support; and

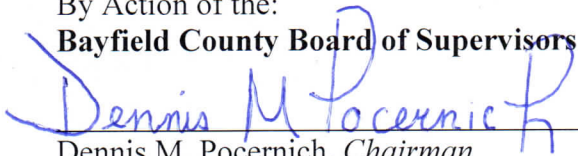
WHEREAS, competent studies have projected that if such legislation is enacted, it will result in a substantial reduction in carbon emissions as well as increases in GDP and employment; and that the dividends received by most low and moderate-income households will be more than enough to offset price increases due to the carbon fee;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors, assembled this 23rd day of April 2019, do hereby urge the United States Congress to pass H.R. 763 without delay; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bayfield County Clerk is directed to send copies of this resolution to Governor Tony Evers, Senator Ron Johnson, Senator Tammy Baldwin, Representative Sean Duffy, State Senator Janet Bewley, and State Representative Beth Meyers.

By Action of the:

Bayfield County Board of Supervisors


Dennis M. Pocernich, *Chairman*

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF BAYFIELD)

I, Scott S. Fibert, Bayfield County Clerk, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Volume 26, adopted by the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors at their meeting held on the 23rd day of April 2019.


Scott S. Fibert, *Bayfield County Clerk*