

RESOLUTION NO. 6223

A RENEWED RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE BY PASSING THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT OF 2019

WHEREAS, it is recognized and acknowledged that climate scientists worldwide are in near-unanimous agreement that the Earth is warming rapidly which is causing changes in climate that are perilous to the Earth's natural systems and to human civilization, and that the primary cause of that warming is human activity, especially through the combustion of greenhouse gasses such as carbon dioxide (CO₂); and,

WHEREAS, it is evident that the continued use of fossil fuels is being largely supported by a market failure whereby the costs of carbon emissions are not included in the price of fossil fuels, and that the urgent need to transition away from fossil fuels remains and can best be accomplished with a market-based program, namely a revenue-neutral carbon fee on fossil fuel producers with a corresponding rebate or dividend to consumers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bemidji, Minnesota, (Best MN Town 2018) has already acknowledged the importance of taking action toward reducing fossil fuel use through its 2007 pledge to the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, through its continuing participation in Minnesota GreenStep Cities (Step 3 City), through its energy efficiency investments, and, by its previous passage of Resolution No. 6178 (dated September 17, 2018) which acknowledged climate change and urged Congress to levy a revenue neutral fee on carbon in fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 763, the "Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019" was recently introduced into the House of Representatives on January 24, 2019, which legislation calls for a revenue-neutral carbon fee and corresponding rebate or dividend to consumers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of Bemidji, MN, that the Council endorses the policies set forth in H.R. 763, the "Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019" as introduced into the House of Representatives on January 24, 2019, and call upon the full Congress to pass this legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the City's Congressional Delegation.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Councilmember Rivera, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Meehlhause, was passed by the following vote:


Ayes: Meehlhause, Johnson, Rivera, Thompson, Albrecht

Nays: Beard, Erickson

Absent: None

Passed: April 15, 2019

ATTEST:


Bobbi Karpinski, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVED:


Rita C. Albrecht, Mayor